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ISSUE 23 • MAY 2017

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Could this have been the solution? During the larger and more successful craft market in September 2016 (pictured), Edwards was allowed to set-up alongside the newcomers without impeding the ongoing event.

A DISASTER RAMSEY MARKET STALWART SIDE-LINED AS CONTINENTAL MARKET FLOPS

Edwards Farm was unable to set-up its traditional market stall despite over fifty years attendance due to a continental market that was branded "a disaster" by organisers due to a lack of footfall. Market organiser Olivier Simonin said the continental market, which remained in town from April 20th to 23rd, was "a disaster",

laying the blame on the general size of Ramsey. He also cited a lack of people in the town centre and the local media outlets, who he claimed were unwilling to support or promote the event.

"There's a really nice range of stalls coming from all over Europe, lots of French traders, but we didn't have enough footfall. Of

course, Ramsey is so small", said Simonin, adding later "[there was] not enough people".

The International Food Market, which offers a selection of stalls selling foods and additional items provided by vendors from around Europe, was provided to the town free of charge, although it is not known if

they paid the £25 rate per stall generally. Controversially, organisers refused to allow Edwards Farm to set-up their usual stall on the corner of Great Whyte and New Road, leaving many residents unable to continue their regular purchase of locally grown fruit and vegetables.

Haydn Edwards, who operates the stall, spoke of his frustration at the situation, saying "It's annoying, because I brought stock ready for the day! They had been talking the day up for a while, saying it was going to be a busy day, so I brought accordingly to it. So today [April 24th] I've had to go through and what's not good has gone in the skip".

Mr Edwards, who is a Ramsey Town Councillor, approached the Ramsey Initiative on several occasions throughout the week, being told to set-up at various locations on the High Street or on Tesco's car park, with the latter leaving Mr Edwards unsure if a joke was being made. He expressed a sentiment early in the week preceding the event that he would be unable to set-up at either end of the market area, as he would either be blocking access to residential areas or disabled parking.

He was later informed that being "only a casual", referring to having no signed monthly contract for the space in question, he was not entitled to set up at all, despite having personally served customers from the stall for 41 years, with his family active on the market stall for more than a decade before. Over the course of the last few months, the Edwards stand has been the only stall present on the regular Saturday morning market.

Edwards has been well supported by its loyal customers during the period, several of whom have reportedly spoken to representatives of the Initiative, with others taking to social

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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If you have a story or if you know of an event which may be of local interest please let us know; we can publish it in your newspaper,
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RAMSEY IN THE SPRING!



Huntingdonshire District Council have announced that bin collections will continue as normal during the upcoming May national bank holidays, as staff have agreed to work through the holiday.

6 WEEKS

... left until the snap general election called by Prime Minister Theresa May. Find out what local political figures think on page 12.

Have your say at the local ELECTIONS

A quick list of who you'll be able to vote for in your local area.

COUNTY COUNCIL

RAMSEY & BURY WARD

Adela Costello - Conservative Party

Kevin Minnette - Labour Party

Peter Reeve MBE - UKIP

Alex Wasylw - Liberal Democrat

WARBOYS & THE STUKELEYS

Paul Bullen - UKIP

Tony Hulme - Liberal Democrat

Terry Rogers - Conservative Party

Graeme Watkins - Labour Party

MAYORAL ELECTION (DEVOLUTION)

Paul Bullen - UKIP

Rod Cantrill - Liberal Democrat

Peter Dawe - Independent

Stephen Goldspink - English Democrats

Julie Howell - Green Party

James Palmer - Conservative Party

Kevin Price - Labour Party

YEAR OF THE S.I.D

Community Roadwatch Managing Director David McCandless has stayed true to his word and installed the first S.I.D device in Warboys. The device, which has been installed approximately half way up Fenton Road, will warn drivers about their speed in hopes of slowing them down.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL 2017

- 1st Beer Festival**
Ramsey Golf Club
- 4th Looking for the Goshawk: The Lost Raptor**
Wildlife Trust Countryside Centre
- 9th Ramsey & District U3A**
Ramsey Community Centre
- 13th Walled Garden Opening**
Ramsey Walled Garden
- 14th Fenland Light Railway**
Mereside Drive
- 20th Fish Crafts**
Ramsey Library
- 28th Fenland Light Railway**
Mereside Drive

For more information, please visit:
discoverramsey.co.uk/events

ITS A GOOD MONTH FOR

POLITICS

A snap general election has been called to take place after the local elections this month

ITS A BAD MONTH FOR

THE MARKET

The Continental Market was labelled a 'disaster' as the charter is taken on by the Town Council



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Warboys Reporter C.I.C. in writing at the following address:

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

media to vent their frustration. He also gave away strawberries throughout the morning, including several containers to the visiting stall-owners, who were said to be equally troubled by the situation. "Some of them were angrier than I was", Mr Edwards commented, "You don't like to take a stall from someone else, you don't do it". Asked about his feelings on the day, Mr Edwards remarked: "It's aggravating, because you try to do your best to keep the town alive. It's like any high street, once you start losing a few shops, people start to go into the big supermarkets and the bigger towns, and we're all here to earn a living". However, regular customers of Edwards will be reassured that he has not been put off by this debacle. "I'm going to come back", he said, "My wife is going to write on the board next week - 'Back by popular demand! But I

will be back, because with the Town Council taking it on its going to be better organised, there's going to be a better idea and a business sense to the job and hopefully it will be promoted more and have money put into it". The market charter is still in the process of being moved under the purview of Ramsey Town Council, having been previously administered by the Ramsey Initiative, who have continued to operate the market during the transitional period. Ramsey Town Councillor Ian Curtis, who strongly supported the charter being passed to the Town Council, stated: "To turn around and tell somebody like Haydn Edwards that he can't have his stall there on a Saturday when he's been there serving the people of Ramsey for over forty years himself, and his family before that, is totally out of order". The Ramsey Initiative did not respond to a request for comment



There were some attendees across the four days, although visitors have expressed surprise the market was held for such a long period of time.

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Erin wins Gold in her group at British Gymnastics County Grades

On Saturday, 8th April, Erin Scarfe competed in the Club Grade 5 competition in age group 10/11 of the British gymnastics – Cambridgeshire County Grades 2017 and won first place.

Erin is 10 years old and attends Bury Primary School. She lives in Ramsey Heights and is trained by Mat Cooper as part of the Girls 'A' Squad at Huntingdon Gymnastics Club. Proud mum Nikki said, "She trains for 8 hours a week and her favourite piece is 'floor', as it combines her love of gymnastics and dance. The competition involved routines on Beam, Bars, Vault and Floor." "There is also a Range & Conditioning element which displays the gymnast's flexibility and strength, Nikki added.

Erin achieved excellent scores on all her pieces; Beam (12.45), Bars (12.8), Vault (13.00), Floor (12.25) and Range & Conditioning (12.55), giving her a massive total of 63.05 which earned her a gold medal for first place, a Distinction and a place at the Ipswich Regional Finals in May.

OUR PRINTER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

Top Lincolnshire printer, Mortons Print - who also prints this newspaper, has been named Regional Newspaper Printer of the Year at the national Newsawards 2017.

The company, based in Horncastle, Lincolnshire, impressed judges with the high quality of its print work on titles such as the Newark Advertiser, Driffield & Wolds Weekly and Teesdale Mercury.

Chairman of Judges Gary Cullum, editor and publisher of industry trade magazine Production Journal, said: "The Mortons Print portfolio of newspapers was a clear winner with judges, who described the entry as the 'stand out' copy.

The titles on the judges' table demonstrated good, clean copy, vibrant colour, strong and consistent black density, good contrast in images, good registration and it scored highly. The newspapers were a pleasure to pick up – and the entry was head and shoulders above the rest.

The choice of a quality bright, white paper stock enhanced the print quality and gave the entry an added lift. This was newspaper printing at its absolute best."

Newspapers printed by Mortons Print also won highly commended and commended awards in the Niche Market Newspaper of the Year category – with the "first-class" quality of their print being highlighted in judges' comments.

The award presentation evening at the Lancaster London, in Lancaster Terrace, London, on Wednesday, April 5, was attended by Mortons print director Steve Wickwar, commercial manager Ken Calderwood and operations manager Jim Blyth.

Steve said: "It was a great team effort and a testament to all the hard work that has been put in over the last few years. It just goes to show what can be achieved using the latest technology and the skills of a highly experienced print production team."

Ruben is first baby born on day one at North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust



At 4.04am on Saturday, 1st April little Ruben was born to new parents Zara and Martin Roberts, becoming the first born within the newly formed North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust.

Two local hospital trusts have combined forces to form a new organisation that now runs Peterborough City Hospital, Hinchingbrooke Hospital and Stamford and Rutland Hospital.

The family were presented with a certificate and gift to mark the occasion and met North West Anglia FT executives CEO Stephen Graves, Deputy CEO, Finance Director Caroline Walker, and Medical Director Dr Kanchan Rege. They also marked the arrival of the first baby born at Peterborough City Hospital in the same way.

Acute healthcare

The North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust came into existence on 1st April and employs 6,000 staff to provide acute healthcare to approximately 700,000 residents living in Cambridgeshire, South Lincolnshire and neighbouring counties.

Previously, the hospitals were run by two

separate trusts – Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Hinchingbrooke HealthCare NHS Trust.

Clinical and financial sustainability

Stephen Graves said: "By combining the two trusts, we have been able to strengthen the clinical and financial sustainability of our hospitals, which in turn will help retain a number of services at Hinchingbrooke that had previously been clinically unsustainable.

"Under the new Trust our patients should not see any changes to the services they receive. One of the main drivers for our collaboration was to ensure patients can continue accessing treatments at their local hospital.

Greater opportunities

"In addition, we hope to be an even more attractive prospect to new employees by providing greater opportunities to work in larger teams and across the diversity of our three hospital sites."

By combining the two organisations, the new Trust aims to deliver a total of £9m recurrent savings, which will be achieved by merging non patient-facing functions.

St Thomas a Becket bells fall silent



On 23rd April, the bells of St Thomas a Becket church ceased to be rung; whilst important repairs to the tower are carried out.

Tower Captain Cathy Moulton says that the enforced silence could last from 16 – 20 weeks, but notice will be given as soon as they know when they are able to ring again.

The Rector and Tower Captain of St Mary Magdalene Church in Warboys have very kindly agreed to allow the team to use their bells to continue practice on Tuesday evenings.



ELLA IS THROUGH TO TEENSTAR SEMI FINALS

Somersham hopeful, Ella Hudson who made it through to the Regional Finals of TeenStar, as reported in last month's edition, has made it through to the Area Semi Finals.

If she makes it through the next stage, she will be in the National finals. Good luck Ella!

EDITORIAL CORRECTION - APRIL ISSUE

On page 2 of last month's edition we reported on the sad loss of former Town Councillor Ian Walker. In that article we said Ian was a dedicated public servant

and long-time Forty Foot campaigner. It should have read, Ramsey Mereside. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

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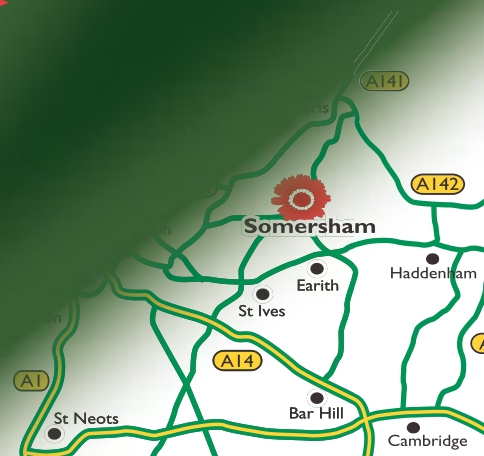
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There were around ten members present for the flower arranging session, which was held in the main room, while the demonstration took place adjacent to the bar.

Founder and organiser Joan Richardson thanked the owners Scout Hut for their support, saying "the Scout Hut was very nice, but the only problem was the wall heaters, and there is a little more space here". "The Scout Hut was lovely, and I think it will still be used an awful lot by children groups and such, and we're very grateful to the Scouts because they kept us going, but we have grown as you can see." Joan also thanked Gap Learning, who supported the group during their founding but have since sadly lost their own funding, saying "Great thanks to Gap Learning, who set us all up, and who have unfortunately lost their funding".

As for the group, which has grown to average around 10 members per session, with popular sessions attracting upwards of 25 people, Joan remains optimistic, saying: "We're still only going to meet every other Monday afternoon, but we have extended it for an hour, so we're now meeting twelve till three instead of one till three, which is really useful. For example, next week we start calligraphy, which is going to take more than three hours and that's just introducing it! And then what we do is, the following fortnight, we do it again, so that what we have learnt we can then practice."

Alongside the two week programmes, the group offers a 'Round To It' session, which offers anyone who is involved in crafting the chance to finish their pet projects or get ahead of a large order. As Joan says, "Everyone in crafting has something they haven't finished, so we call it a 'Round To

CRAFTERS' FLOWER IN NEW VENUE

The Ramsey Crafters enjoyed their first session at the Ramsey Cricket Club on Monday 24th April with a demonstration on flower arranging.



session, so that people can bring anything along and they can actually get around to doing it!"

Hilary and Pauline, who provide flower arrangements for St Thomas a Becket Church in Ramsey, were on hand to deliver an informative display of flower arranging. Pauline demonstrated how to arrange a flower basket like those available to buy in florists, while Hilary offered something a little different with her take on a Spring Garden arrangement. "I've got a lot of

things from the garden to do that with", commented Hilary, "While Pauline has got the commercial flowers". Most of the flowers were sourced or grown locally.

Hilary later paid tribute to the unique group, saying "I'm always seeing in the papers what they have done and I think it's great. It's really nice for the ladies to learn something different every month".

She was also able to announce the theme for the upcoming Ramsey Flower Festival, saying "the title is 'picture this', and the theme is art

and artists, so we'll be interpreting pictures - all the famous ones, such as the Mona Lisa". When Ramsey Crafters started meeting almost two years ago, their plan was to enjoy crafting, make things to sell but also to meet people. The group also offers a financial incentive to members, selling goods from their stalls and taking a small percentage in order to continue supporting the self-funded organisation.

Members are from a variety of backgrounds. Some are retired, some work part time and some are self-employed. The common denominator is that they all enjoy making things and meeting people and have some spare time. Whatever the motive for joining, everyone is made welcome.

The Ramsey Crafter's will be on hand at Createfest on July 15th and are planning to attend and run events closer to Christmas.



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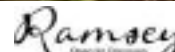
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EASTER PILGRIMAGE PASSES THROUGH FORTY FOOT

By Maurice Kendrick

On Monday, 10th April, I came upon a very happy bunch of young people who were singing and carrying a huge wooden cross along Benwick Road, Ramsey Forty Foot. They formed the Kettering Leg of Student Cross which took place between 8th and 16th April.

Student Cross is a pilgrimage organised by and for students, young adults, and pilgrims of all ages, which began in 1948. Pilgrims experience Holy Week and the joy of the Resurrection as a living reality with the chance of celebrating Easter in a unique way.

Wooden cross

Eleven different groups, known as Legs, walk from different parts of the country across Norfolk to Walsingham with kind-hearted parishes providing food and accommodation along the way. Each Leg carries the large wooden cross as a witness to the people they pass.

They walk from just outside Kettering in Northamptonshire to Walsingham in Norfolk, via the Fens, spending each night in a different town or village, passing through Wisbech and Swaffham as well as many smaller towns and villages.

Contemplative

Every day includes liturgy (morning prayer, personal reflections on route, and perhaps Mass or a penitential service), walking during the morning and the afternoon, breaks for refreshments in a parish or local pub, and relaxing in the evening... For some, the week is contemplative, for others, it's enough to be away from the demands of everyday life, and to enjoy singing everything from hymns to pop and pub songs (they were singing Bon Jovi's 'Livin' on a Prayer' when they passed me). For all of them it was a journey towards Easter and towards God.

Groups of three people take it in turns to carry the cross on their shoulders, for a few minutes at a time, not adding much to the demands of their journey, but being an important symbol for them, and for the people they meet.

Paschal Party

The climax of the week was in Walsingham, a centre of pilgrimage for many centuries, and where all the Legs met up to celebrate the Easter liturgies together over the Easter weekend, including a vibrant Paschal Party after the Easter vigil on Saturday evening.

Facts and figures

- Student Cross first started walking from London to Walsingham in 1948. It was originally a male-only Catholic pilgrimage and pilgrims had to carry all of their belongings
- Northern Leg started in 1949, leaving



from Nottingham. Since then, Oxford (1962), Midland (1971), Essex (1972) and Kettering (1975) were also founded, walking for the full week

- Ely Leg started in 1996. It walks for three days from Wednesday
- Two family legs - Peg and Wells - meet on the evening of Palm Sunday. Wells Leg is the newer, having begun in 2006.
- A new leg for families with older children of secondary school age - Wensum - began in 2012. It walks shorter distances of no more than 10 miles per day over 3 days.
- Easter Leg, which only walks on Good Friday, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008.
- Women officially started walking in 1966, though, previously, there had been many occasions when they helped carry the cross while 'stronger' men recovered from their blisters and other ailments.
- Christians of other denominations started walking Student Cross in the 1960s. Although, Student Cross is still predominantly Catholic, hundreds of fellow Christians have walked and will continue to walk on Student Cross
- Well known people to have walked Student Cross include Big Brother 2006 winner Pete Bennett (albeit as a child), novelist David Lodge and Bishop Emeritus of Portsmouth Rt Rev Crispian Hollis.
- The Archbishop of Liverpool, Rt Rev Malcolm McMahon, is one of the patrons of the Student Cross Association, which supports pilgrims.

For more information about Student Cross, visit their web site at www.studentcross.org.uk



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Bury Parish Council

Peter Hazell - Chairman

After a short break the forum met up to discuss findings from the team at Cambridge-shire acre. Mark Deas and Rachel Hogger were enlisted to compile a demographic profile of Bury.

CENSUS FINDINGS:

Mark presented information he had obtained by studying the local census. Information gleaned from this should identify trends and help us to know our community. The information was from the 2011 census so is slightly out of date but it is the most recent census. Findings were as follows:

POPULATION

There are 1900 residents in Bury living in 700 dwellings. The age profile is typical for a village in that there are lots of school age children a lower amount of adults 25-35 with an increase in adults in their late 30's and 40's. There are a high percentage of residents who are 75+. There are an average number of couples with and without children living in Bury.

HOUSING

Owner occupation is at 80%. There are mostly detached houses. There is a low level of social housing and a low level of rented

housing. House prices are higher than Ramsey but lower than Huntingdonshire as a whole. There is some evidence of housing need.

EMPLOYMENT

Many adults have high skilled occupations and commute outside of Bury, however not that many commute to London due to poor transport links. On average people tended to claim health or disability related benefits rather than general employment benefits. Findings from our recent questionnaire show that this is still relevant information but it shows a larger than average older population, are their needs being catered for?

Likewise an ever-growing number of families with young children, are their needs being met?

S.W.O.T

Rachel highlighted the need for an analysis, using the data she had received from our questionnaire and following a discussion. This highlighted what is good about Bury and what could threaten that and also what is considered bad about Bury and how positive development could change this.

TABLE OF RESULTS

GOOD	THREATS
Rural characteristics Green spaces Local wildlife Access to countryside Village stores/burtons Village feel Community spirit	Urbanisation School is full Impact on health services Nurseries/childminders are full Integrating new community with old
BAD	OPPORTUNITIES
Shortage of new homes Shortage of employment Opportunities	Growth will support local shops and services

The question that followed was do we know all the issues?

This has opened up further discussion including talks regarding the proposed development at R.A.F Upwood and how this will affect our community and the infrastructure.

The emerging local plan has already highlighted issues with infrastructure,

transport, housing and employment in neighbouring Ramsey.

ANY new development, unless supported by a neighbourhood plan will not take Bury's views into account. We are working on the vision for Bury but we need your ideas! Thank you for your continued support Lisa Schiavo (acting chair)

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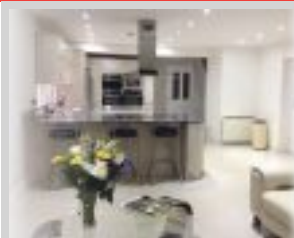
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Bury Parish Council

Peter Hazell - Chairman

APRIL MEETING

April's meeting was attended by 8 parish Councillors (including our County Councillor), both District Councillors and 1 member of the public (our Speedwatch coordinator). The chairman welcomed and introduced the new clerk to the council who will be taking up her duties in May.

The police report stated that there had been a number of thefts/burglaries from a vehicle, a shed, a garage and a riding stables; an attempted computer fraud; an incident of domestic violence; a road traffic accident (no serious injuries) and of course the ongoing issue of trespassing by young people on the RAF Upwood site.

With regard to the RAF Upwood site. It is hoped that the planning agreement will be completed very soon, but there is still no movement, as it were, on the clinic site.

In the cemetery, a fence has been erected around the cremated remains area and an old hedge and tree have been removed. Once again our thanks go to Matt Badcock

for the excellent work he undertakes.

SPEEDWATCH has 2 new volunteers but more are needed, so if you are interested then contact SPEEDWATCH at: csw@gmail.com.

This leads me nicely to the next point which is speeding traffic through the village which may have been the cause of the RTA mentioned earlier together with the width or "narrowness" of the road. This is a problem in all parishes in the area and probably in the county and country. The parish council will be looking at ways of trying to solve this problem.

Amended financial regulations were adopted and the accounts have been sent to the internal auditor.

Finally our clerk will be leaving soon. She will be sorely missed and we wish her well for the future. As mentioned at the beginning, we have appointed a new clerk who will take over on May 3rd, at 7.30 pm at the village hall.

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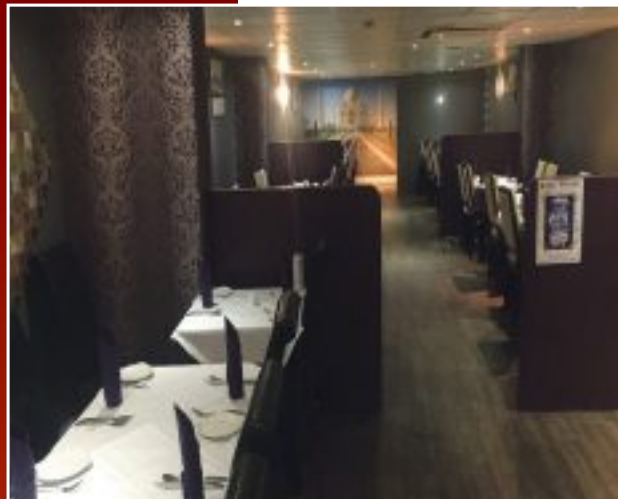
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BENWICK BANTER



Down Memory Lane with Janet Fountain

In the 1940's and 1950's there were seven pubs in Benwick High Street and another one at Copalder Corner on the Doddington Road. Last month I mentioned The Boot and Slipper at the top of the street.

Next door was The Bell, owned by Huntingdon Brewery. This was the headquarters of Benwick cricket team and the Oddfellows met there. The last tenants were Mr. and Mrs. Les Boon. Les was a blacksmith and the forge was next door with access via The Bell yard.

Beer house

Les' wife Edie ran the pub with the help of her brother Ben. It was just a beer house - no wines and spirits. Les and Edie had two sons, Ken and Richard, who no longer shoe horses but built up the present business L. R. Boon & Sons as agricultural engineers.

It began on The Bell site but the family bought the old Pack Horse pub at the other end of the High Street in the early 1960's and the business is still thriving.

The Pack Horse had also been owned by Huntingdon Brewery and again just a beer house. There had been a club room there where social events and whist drives were held. Harold and Hannah Granger were the last tenants before they moved to take the tenancy of The Boot and Slipper.



NOMINATIONS FOR THE PRIDE OF FENLAND AWARDS 2017



Jill Hindle (centre) was nominated by Clare Billington in recognition of the excellent work achieved in the community - Volunteer Category.

Benwick Exhibition
 Sunday 21st May
 2.00pm til 5.00pm
 Benwick Village Hall
 Huge collection of photographs of 'Benwick'
 Displays of Local Arts & Crafts
 Tombola Raffle
 Table Top Sales Refreshments
 Admission Free





The Great Fen encourages everyone to go Wild.
 This June, why not take the challenge and do one wild thing every day! Why?

It's 30 Days Wild!

It's easy! We want you to do something wild every day throughout June: that's 30 simple, fun and exciting Random Acts of Wildness.

It might seem like a no-brainer, but we've been working with the University of Derby to prove that spending time in nature is good for you. 30 Days Wild is all about taking a little bit of time every day to do something a little bit wild, so take the challenge and you might just find yourself feeling a little bit healthier, happier and wilder!

When you sign up for 30 Days Wild, you'll receive our pack of wild goodies, plus lots of ideas from your Wildlife Trust to inspire you to go wild. But you don't just have to do what we tell you: why not make up your own Random Acts of Wildness?

Shut your eyes to listen to bird song. Take a wild walk at lunchtime. Lie back in the long grass. Search out urban wildlife. Talk to someone on your street about nature. Use wild ingredients to mix a wild cocktail.

You can share all the things you do with us on social media using #30DaysWild along with thousands of other people taking part.

It's so easy to bring a little bit of wild into your everyday life, so do something wild every day!

For more information see www.wildlifetrustbcn.org



Great Fen

A VOTE FOR ADELA COSTELLO IS A VOTE FOR A GENUINELY HARDWORKING LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO:

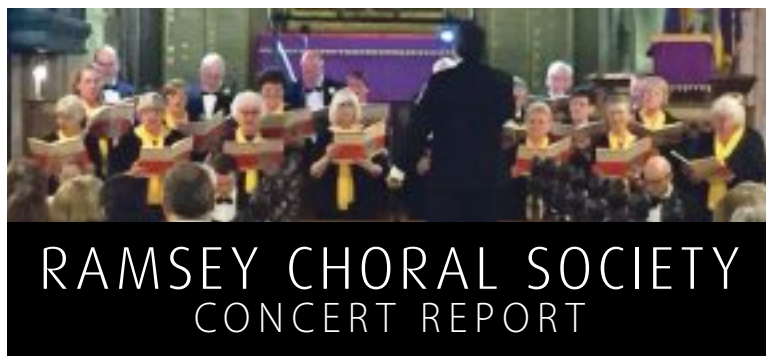
- Always puts the interests of Ramsey Town, Villages and Bury first, above party politics
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- Has served the local community for over 15 years



ADELA COSTELLO



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RAMSEY CHORAL SOCIETY CONCERT REPORT

There was a large and appreciative

By Pat Sutton (Chair)

Robin Walker at the organ.

audience for Ramsey Choral Society's very successful production of Haydn's 'Creation' in St Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey on 1st April. Conducted by Angus Davidson, the choir was joined by 3 professional soloists, Soprano Ellie Neate, Tenor Jack Roberts and Bass Thomas Guthrie. All accompanied by

Rehearsals start on Thursday 20th April in Ramsey Junior School at 7.30 pm for our next Concert 'Sounds of Stage and Screen' in St Mary Magdalene Church, Warboys on 15th July. New members always welcome.

Further information from www.ramseychoral.org or 01487 813819

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Sunday June 11th - 11.30am-5pm

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Q&A

With the surprise snap election called just weeks before the local vote began, we caught up with the area's senior political figures to find out what they thought...

S N O T H E E

Cllr PETER BUCKNELL

Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council

What were your first reactions when the news was announced?

Very surprised, I was busy because after Easter you are always busy with work, but then when I was told I thought "Wow, what's going on here!". I think everyone knew that something would happen because the ratings are so high for the conservatives - or I should rephrase - that Labour was so low, I suppose it was an opportunity just to say 'let's do it now'. going to have a major impact on the local elections?

I fear that might be the case. I suppose, when everyone realises they will have to vote again in June, will some people tend to think 'Oh, we're not voting in May'? It could leave that doubt. I hope not, because obviously it's an opportunity for everyone to vote in the county elections and the new mayor, but it could have a consequence that things might be left to be decided in the general election.

You've been campaigning at a local level for many years, both when there was and wasn't a general election, is there a major difference to how that affects the campaign on the street?

Oh yes! When it's a general election, the hype is up more, obviously, you get far more from media from the television, but it is very different. I think people tend to vote for certain things locally, but when it comes to the national level we all have to say to ourselves 'hang on a minute, what do we want? Do we want a strong government', which we do, no matter who you still want a strong government, and I suppose that's why the turnout up to around 70%, where locally to get to around 30/35%, so people do take more notice of general elections?

Is this going to depress turnout?

Yeah, I think I can see where you are coming from, but I think the most important thing now is that a lot of people, and I mean a lot, do postal votes. So, it's quite easy to vote from your desk, and put your vote in an envelope and send it off. And I think that's why, when you look at the numbers now, it is incredibly high, and I don't mind admitting that I am one, because I can always remember when I was first up for election and it wasn't until almost ten minutes before the polls closed when my wife asked me if I had voted, and I said 'no!', because I was so busy with other things. I had to run up to the polling station and put my cross in for myself, and I remember thinking that 'that was a close one', so I thought afterwards that I would go over to a postal vote, so you can do it quite easily, and you know you have voted.

SHAILESH VARA

MP for North West Cambridgeshire

What were your first reactions when the news was announced?

I welcome the decision by the prime minister and I think it's the right one. It was very clear during the referendum, or following the referendum result, the direction that the British public wanted parliament to pursue in terms of the way forward, and parliament must now deliver on Brexit, but what has also become clear over the past few months is that the opposition parties are more interested in playing politics and in being destructive when it comes to trying to secure the best deal for Britain.

Is this not going to impact the local elections quite significantly?

We have had a system in Britain where we have regular elections, whether they be local election, mayoral elections, elections for police commissioners as well as general elections, so yes this is something else that we will have to deal with over the coming weeks but I think it is something that the public will recognise is in the greater good of Britain, and the reasons why Theresa May is calling the general election were very very well put in the statement she made earlier today, and I very much hope that people will take the trouble to listen to her statement, which set out very clearly the reasons why we need this general election, and I'm minded to say that many people will want to have certainly, will want to have a government that is able to act decisively to carry forward the will of the public as made clear at the referendum that we had. And can I just add that democracy has consequences, and I appreciate the arguments that have been put forward by those who supported the remain campaign...

(Interrupting) Of which you were one?

Yes I was one of them, I campaigned for remain, but I also believe firmly in the principles of democracy, and democracy has consequences, and the referendum was a referendum by the people of Britain and the people of Britain spoke, and it is now the duty of parliament to listen to the British people and to carry out the will of the British people, and that means that people who voted to remain can't just keep on banging on about their views because to do so would be to not listen to the British public who have spoken in their millions.

Cllr PETER REEVE

Ramsey Town, District & County Councillor

What were your first reactions when the news was announced?

I think it's fantastic news, it's an interesting trigger! So, on of the two technical triggers to call a general election with the fixed term parliament act in place is that she will have to put forward a motion of no confidence in herself, so with tongue in cheek I am actually, for the first time, I actually completely agree with Theresa May and her position on her governments performance! But in all reality, it is a brilliant piece of news for UKIP. One of our main concerns was that the Brexit negotiations were being delivered by people who didn't really believe in it - we had a pro-remain parliament with a pro-remain conservative party leading it, and even a pro-remain prime minister who, albeit was making the right noises, campaigned to stay in the European Union. Now we have unique opportunity for Brexit negotiations to have the involvement of people who genuinely believe that Brexit is a good thing and that there is a positive outcome with the opportunities available globally for the UK, you can't do that if you don't believe in it and the real danger is that we would end up with a terrible Brexit because it was led by people who didn't really believe in it. So, here's an opportunity, with a general election, to get UKIP people in the front line of that negotiation, and we're going to fight tooth and nail to make sure we and the ordinary people of this country who voted for Brexit get that voice right and get it properly heard within the Brexit negotiations. And to do that we must fight and do very well, or even win, this general election.

Are you ready for a parliamentary campaign?

UKIP is never quite ready for a parliamentary campaign, let's be quite honest about it. The First Past The Post system in Westminster is a system designed for only two parties, and for UKIP to be arguably the third party in this country, even when the Lib Dems were the third party in this country, there was never a very clear position that the whole parliamentary system could cope with three or four parties in that position, it is designed to have the establishment, in the Labour and Conservative parties, swapping roles every few years to keep the country pacified, and what UKIP stands for is actually saying 'that's not real change, it's not change when people who have gone to the same school, have the same background, have the same education and largely come from very similar families are, albeit in two different parties, swapping power occasionally'. Real change, real democracy, is when ordinary people such as UKIP candidates are getting into Westminster and making a difference.

Cllr SARAH CONWAY

Chairman of Huntingdonshire Liberal Democrats

What were your first reactions when the news was announced?

Well I think it's come as a huge surprise to the public, I'm not sure it's that much of a surprise politically but certainly locally it gives us a hugely interesting time because we are just fighting local elections and a mayoral election, so the real challenge is actually making sure people turn out to vote and engage and are very clear which election they are voting for, because we really do want people to have a say about who represents them locally and then, obviously, to make sure they are really engaged with the mayoral election and with the general election, and the real challenge is actually making sure people come out and vote for all of those things and genuinely have a say about what happens.

The liberal democrats have made their stance very clear on Brexit, are you the only ones that could benefit from this?

Well, I think what matters to people is the sudden realisation that what they thought they were making a decision on was perhaps not what they were actually not making a decision on, and that's the real challenge, isn't it? We want people to now realise that it is now the time to be very clear on what you are voting for, and if you really have a strong view - and I think so many people now have a stronger view than they did previously as there is much more clarity about what Brexit could mean - then if you don't like where that is going you need to come out, have your say and make your voice heard. There is a real opportunity here for change and if you really feel strongly then you need to vote. I hope that many people will look at the Lib Dems and think that is the right place to put their vote, but I also hope that people will look and realise you need a strong opposition, and that's going to be the real challenge here. We need an opposition that can stand up and be heard, and we would like people to look at how they vote to achieve that.

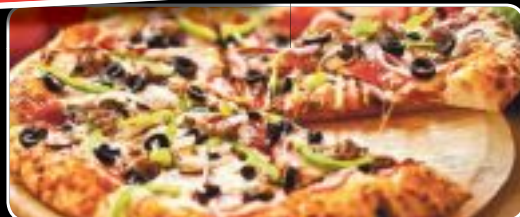
Interviews by Adam Roberts
Conducted on Tuesday, April 18th

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RAMSEY ROTARY

Ramsey Rotary members were visited by photographer and pilot Keith Wilson this month, while others paid a long-awaited visit to the club's partners in Norway. The winners for the School Competition are also announced...



Club members with their hosts



Conington at the start of the trip

Single engine across the Atlantic with Capt' Tinkerbell

Club members were pleased to welcome back local photographer and aviator Keith Wilson. This time Keith was to entertain members with details of his hair raising trip joining a professional ferry pilot flying former Slovenian Air Force military Pilatus PC-9 aircraft from Switzerland to North Carolina, routing across the Pond (Atlantic Ocean)

Keith story started at Conington Airfield near Peterborough. Initially the trip was to be two aircraft flying together but due to continuous problems with the radio equipment on one aircraft it was decided to leave this aircraft at Conington until all the problems had been resolved.

Keith was to act as co-pilot to Ed Oleksy dubbed 'Captain Tinkerbell' because whenever he said "ferry", it sounded like "fairy" in his southern US draw. Ed was an experienced ferry pilot with numerous transatlantic crossings.

Because the aircraft flew with better fuel economy at high altitude Keith and Ed would be using oxygen most of the time.

The first leg of the flight was to Belfast to refuel (cheaper fuel) the aircraft was equipped with two 34 gallon (155 litre) under wing long-range fuel tanks for the Atlantic crossing. Then onto Wick a regular jumping-off point for transatlantic ferry pilots. Next leg



Keith self portrait leaving Greenland behind

was to Reykjavik in Iceland flying 3 hours over open sea. The following day the next onward flight was to Narsarsuaq in Greenland, another 3 hours plus flight across snow covered mountains.

The next part of the trip was to Goose Bay in Gander but because of bad weather closing in and ice forming on the wings and running low on fuel Ed and Keith were forced to detour to Makkovik, a little known airfield with an uphill runway but much nearer than Goose Bay.

Shortly after landing two snowmobiles arrived with members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police asking lots of questions. What was this strange military-looking aircraft doing at Makkovik? Why did we not land at a proper airport what are you smuggling? Once papers were checked all was well. After refueling it was onward to Goose Bay then to Quebec City followed by Manchester for US Customs clearance and onward to Sandford their final destination. What were Keith's reactions after such a trip?

Firstly, there was complete elation of having completed my first transatlantic single engine ferry flight. Then there was the awful feeling that this 'trip of a lifetime' was at an end, and I really didn't want it to be over.



Approaching Narsarsuaq Greenland

Return visit to Norway

Ten Rotary Club members, some accompanied by family members, made an exchange visit to their twinning Rotary Club in Volda, Norway. Members of the Volda Club visited Ramsey in April 2016, which was covered last May in the Reporter.

The first exchange visit took place in 1973 and since then both Rotary Clubs have made then

regular visits, always hosted in the homes of members. During their stay members did the usual site seeing visits including an Animation Studio, recognised road road crossing and a boat builders where a true Viking ship was being constructed using authentic building methods and materials.



Authentic construction of a Viking long boat



Lesley and Ben at toad road crossing



Bella Greer (third from left) with Runner Up's



Ryley Moorhen and Runner Up Tilly Pepper

School Competition Winners



Jesse Howell and Samuel Davies

Upwood CP School swept the floor this year with entrants and winners to Rotary competitions. They had entries for Young Artist, Young Writer and young Photographer. Rotarian June Green presented the awards.

Young Oliver Fox was chosen as this Easter's Rotary Star. He is a year 3 pupil who demonstrated a high degree of caring qualities for other children in his year and was very helpful to teaching staff in classroom activities. He is a good role model for his age group



Easter Rotary Star Oliver with his parents and Rotarian Brian Mathson



From left to right Chris Wick - President, Sue Halford, Julian Halford, President Elect Mark Pettitt.

Welcome to a new Rotary Member

Last month saw Julian Halford inducted as a new member into Ramsey Rotary Club. Julian who lives in Ramsey St Mary's with his wife, Sue and family moved into the area from Enfield in January 2016.

A former Bank Manager, Financial Adviser and special needs school Business Manager, Julian has been involved in voluntary work throughout most of his life and will be an asset as a new member to Rotary.

Going on holiday with your dog?

The weather is warming up and not long until many Brits go on holiday. More and more people are also including their four-legged friend – well why not, they're part of the family after all and it's far easier to take them with you these days! We think it's great for you to take your dog on holiday and as Vets we can offer you lots of advice about travel safety and disease awareness.



Next issue, we'll give you tips and advice about travelling safely with your pet in the UK and abroad.

There's a lot of coverage in the media at the moment about dog illnesses. Sadly it's true to say that more relaxed pet passport rules and the ease of canine travel has meant diseases usually not seen or rarely seen in the UK are rearing their ugly heads. There are five particular diseases you should be aware of – Lyme disease, babesiosis, lungworm, Alabama rot and seasonal canine illness. All of these diseases are serious and potentially life-threatening for your dog. Thankfully, we live in a relatively low risk area for these diseases but if you are travelling with your dog either in the UK or into Europe, the risk increases.

Tick-borne diseases

Both Lyme disease and babesiosis are carried by ticks. Ticks are a blood-sucking parasitic arachnid. They live in woodland and long grasses waiting for a host to brush past. Once onboard, they embed themselves into the skin and feed on the animal's blood, growing up to 600 times their original size in doing so. They can cause irritation, infection, abscesses and more dangerously transmit disease. You can dramatically lower the risk of these diseases by checking your dog after walks for ticks (especially after walking in wooded or long grass areas) and keep-up-date with prescription-strength tick treatments. It is worth noting that Lyme

disease can transmit to people too!

Lungworm

Lungworm is transmitted by slugs and snails – an odd thing to eat you would think but as a dog owner, you know they could eat anything! Lungworm is a preventable disease; all it requires is an effective monthly worming tablet. (Although we also recommend discouraging the consumption of slugs and snails!).

New diseases

Things are a little more complicated when it comes to Alabama rot and seasonal canine illness. They are relatively new diseases to our shores, first noted in 2012 and 2009 respectively. Alabama rot, as the name suggests, was first found in Alabama (USA) and causes skin lesions and kidney failure. Seasonal canine illness (SCI) causes dogs to become very ill, very quickly (usually within 72 hours of visiting woodland) with sickness, diarrhoea and lethargy. Most cases of SCI are seen from August to November (hence the name). Unfortunately the cause of these diseases is unknown and research is ongoing. Without a known cause it is difficult to give advice on how to prevent disease, instead we advise that if you see any signs you seek immediate veterinary treatment for your pet.

We are running a charity dog show at each of the following events to raise money for The Cinnamon Trust (www.cinnamon.org.uk):

"Bark in the Park" – Hinchingsbrooke Country Park – Sunday 7th May
11am-3pm (with St Ives Dog Training Club, we're also running have-a-go agility and gundog scurry too)

"Yaxley Festival" – Yaxley – Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th May
12noon onwards (with St Ives Dog Training Club, we're also running have-a-go agility and gundog scurry too) more info www.yaxleyfestival.info

"Sawtry Carnival" – Sawtry – Saturday 10th June 12-4pm

"Huntingdon Carnival" – Riverside, Huntingdon – Saturday 10th August
www.huntingdoncarnival.co.uk

Find out more about these diseases online:

www.theveterinaryexpert.com or www.pethealthinfo.org.uk
or www.aht.org.uk

Contact your local Cromwell Vets surgery on **01487 814789**.
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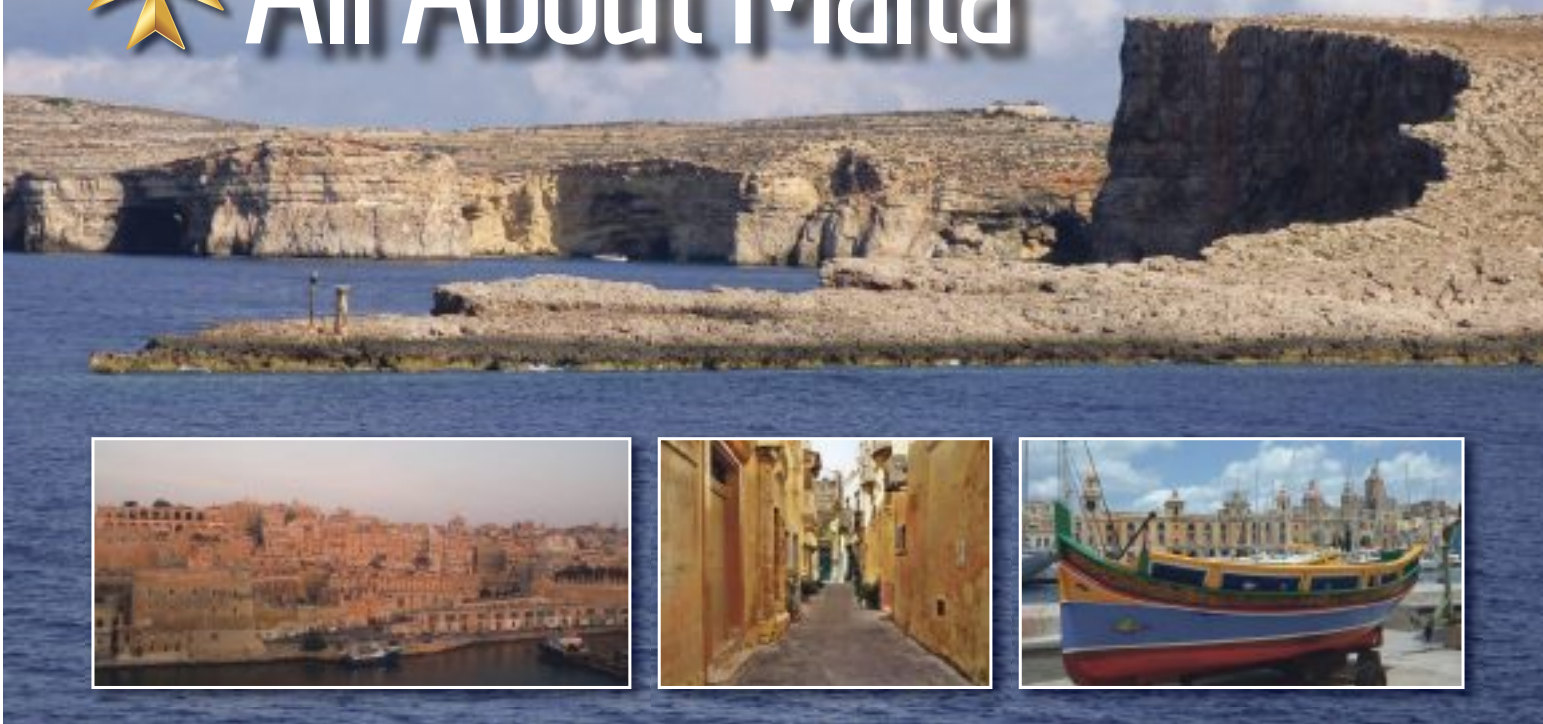
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All About Malta



Malta is the perfect holiday destination; the summers are practically guaranteed to be dry and hot. The beach season here spans about 6 months from the end of April to the end of October.

Malta has been described as a huge open air museum with the scenery and architecture providing a spectacular backdrop. What makes Malta unique is that so much of the past is visible for you to discover today.

Malta's capital city is Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage site due to the large number of historical buildings found in here in such a small space. Try a sight-seeing cruise to see historical battlements and ancient forts from the sea.

Malta's well preserved old capital is the medieval town of Mdina. A fortress like hilltop town, with no cars (apart from a limited number of residents) so you can happily walk its narrow streets and alleyways.

St Paul's Bay is a picturesque resort with good attractions and easy access to some of the finest scenery and best rocky beaches. Almost the entire foreshore is rocky, but many of the rocks are flat and suitable for sunbathing and the entire area is great for water-sports. There are a selection of quiet bars and cafes. Nearby Bugibba is the place to find a hub of activity at night.

St Julian's is as energetic and lively as it gets in Malta, a hubbub of restaurants, bars. The area has Malta's highest concentration of 5* hotels. Paceville (pronounced Patchy ville) to the west is the nightlife capital. Full of pubs and clubs, where a young crowd party until the early hours.



Sliema is the main coastal resort on Malta. The shops here are among the best on the island. Sliema's bars and restaurants are relaxed and mellow with a cosmopolitan feel.

Malta has very few sandy beaches. Golden Bay, on the northwestern coast, is possibly the most beautiful. Try neighbouring Ghajn Tuffieħa, with its red sand, which is usually less busy. Snorkelers and divers have plenty to explore with a world of caves, crags and wrecks.

One of the main attractions is the Blue Lagoon. It's a small bay with shallow, azure water, located on the West coast of Comino. Take a boat trip or catch a ferry to get over there.

Malta has a very good island wide bus service and this is an ideal way for you to get out and about and find out all about Malta. Buses are usually regular between the main places of interest, but do not always run according to schedule.

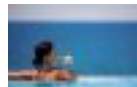
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WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Plenty to look forward to in the Women's Institute section this month., including a visit to the Ramsey Branch by Reverend Richard Coles and a science night featuring balloons, bottles and alot of cnfused faces



Ramsey WI

On April 7th we had another successful Coffee Morning/ Craft Fair. Have you been to a WI coffee morning yet? We have them every second Friday of the month at Ramsey Community Hall. Because of Easter we had Aprils a week early.

Science Night

April's monthly meeting was Science Night with Pat King. The ladies sat in groups of eight at tables covered with plastic on which were strangely lumpy carrier bags. Instructions were given for each experiment and with the help of Pat and her husband Brian. Soon the room was full of plastic bottles, balloons, confetti, scissors, pencils and lots of confused faces but mostly laughter. I don't remember science being this much fun when I was at school. Bottle racers, they do work, we tried then out. Quacking ducks, I think they sounded more like dogs barking, foaming volcanoes and custard suspension or a colloid.

After doing their own experiments the ladies checked out what everyone else was doing and generally having a great evening. It was certainly something different.

Then on Tuesday 11th April, 16 ladies from Ramsey WI joined ladies from all of the WI's in the Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation for 2017's Annual Federation Day at Burgess Hall, St Ives. We started the day with tea or coffee and a homemade biscuit, then visited a variety of stalls, both sales and informative before settling down to the business of the day.

M.E.T.A.L

In the morning we heard from Sarah Haythornthwaite Senior Project Manager from M.E.T.A.L who talked about her work in Peterborough, she told us they curate an exciting programme of international and UK artists in residence, host week-long, residential talent development LABs for artists from mixed disciplines and run a wide range of events, exhibitions and participatory projects that connect artists to audiences and audiences to artists.

And then Susan Jonas on S.O.S for Honey bees, she talked about what happened next after being the voice of Hindon & Fonthill Bishop WI - Wiltshire Federation. The SOS for Honeybees campaign was launched after a resolution calling on the Government to increase funding for research into bee health was passed at the 2009 AGM.

Then lunch break and after eating our sandwiches and mini Hot Cross Buns we had a chance to visit the stalls we had missed in the morning

Reverend Richard Coles

In the afternoon we listened to The Reverend Richard Coles, better known to many as the saxophone player in Bronski Beat. In 1984 Jinny Somerville and Richard left Bronski Beat and formed the Communards, who were together for just over three years and had three UK Top 10 hits, including the biggest-selling single of 1986 with a version of "Don't Leave Me This Way", which was at Number 1 for four weeks. They split in 1988.

Richard was selected for training for the priesthood in the Church of England and began his training at the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, West Yorkshire, being ordained in 2005. After ordination he was a curate at St Botolph's Church in Boston, Lincolnshire and then at St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge in London. In January 2011, Richard was appointed as the parish priest of St Mary the Virgin, Finedon in the Diocese of Peterborough.

Broadcaster

Richard also works as a broadcaster, which he describes as "just showing off" and he has appeared four times as a guest on the topical television news quiz 'Have I Got News for You'.

Richard is a great speaker and made us laugh out loud with stories of his life so far. We are all looking forward to next year's Federation Day.

Working with the North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust, Alzheimer's Society, Carers Trust & Dementia UK, Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation of WIs is launching a pilot scheme to provide emergency 'Carer Comfort Packs' for carers of in-patients with Dementia. We hope this small gesture by members will go some way to enabling carers to stay in hospital with those living with dementia should they wish to do so.



Sally Dalley with new Federation Chairman Josette Kermath.

It was also a chance to celebrate national success with local WIs winning competitions organised by NFWI. Joy Kent (Bluntisham WI) won the best hanging brasket and the ladies from Sawtry designed the winning WI themed bag. Members also thanked the Federation Chair Sally Dalley for her three years of leadership and she in turn presented the Chairman's Award for service to the WI in Huntingdon & Peterborough to Annie Wells (Ramsey St. Mary's WI) & Bev Hiton (Hemingford Grey WI) for their work gathering and collating the federation archives this year.

Our memebtrs overwhelmed us with donations for our Carer Comfort Packs.

The 59 WIs in and around Huntingdon & Peterborough held their annual Federation Day on the 11th April at the Burgess Hall, St. Ives. Over 400 members gathered to meet up with other WI members and generally celebrate all things WI. A special welcome was given to the three new WIs that have been formed this year.

Members were treated to three speakers throughout the day. Sarah Haythornthwaite spoke about the work of the community arts organisation Metal based in Peterborough and Susan Jonas recounted how a chance conversation led to the NFWI SOS for Honeybees campaign that developed into the WI contributing to the National Pollinator Strategy. The keynote speaker was the highly entertaining Rev Richard Coles - a regular presenter of BBC Radio 4's Saturday Live who can often be

WI Federation Day 2017

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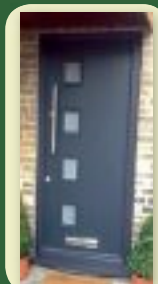


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Annie Wells, Rev Richard Coles & Bev Hilton receiving the Chairman's Award

The Trustees of the Huntingdon & Peterborough Federation of WIs are pleased to announce that Josette Kermath has since been voted in as Chairman for 2017-18. The ceremonial handing over of the Chairman's Badge took place on the 12th April at the WI Centre.

All in all another great year for the WIs of Huntingdon & Peterborough area. If you are interested in joining the WI or finding out more visit...

Website: www.thewi.org.uk/become-a-member/structure-of-the-wi/england/huntingdon-and-peterborough/about-us
Facebook: Huntingdon and Peterborough Federation of WIs
Twitter: @HPFWIs or contact the WI Centre (Tues-Thurs 9am-3pm) Tel: 01480 453137 or
Email: office@hpfwi.co.uk

Will shaving my head of curly hair cure AIDS?

By Di Pitts

No, but with your generosity it will help in the fight. There is a new vaccine, Nevirapine, which has been proven to prevent the transfer of AIDS from an expectant mother to her child at birth. This drug is a safe anti retro viral drug for pregnant mothers and newborns, but has to be administered in a safe environment, so to do this it is hoped to build a Maternity and Ante-natal clinic in a rural area of South West Uganda. This is an area where AIDS is widespread and has been the cause of so many deaths resulting in many children being orphaned without anyone to care for them. The land to build the Maaya Antenatal and Maternity Unit has been given, however, the building funds have yet to be raised.

So why help you may ask? Surely if the people control their urges then AIDS will die out anyway. That to me is a "bury your head in the sand" attitude. Everyone is different, other cultures are different, yet with help and continuing educational guidance concepts are changing, but it takes time.

The Mission Committee of St Thomas a Becket Church, working with Friends of North Kigezi

Diocese, a UK registered charity No. 1114602, has been helping this area with various schemes over several years, and is making a huge difference to the local area. Please let's try to help a little bit more.

I, Di Pitts, am willing to do my bit, but will you help me. For the price of a cup of coffee, or a magazine, I propose to have my head of curly hair shaved in exchange for your donations. The deed is to be done during the churches fete, namely Saturday 17th June, IF we can raise £1,000 – yes it seems a lot, but if everyone could spare the price of a cup of coffee then together we can do it, and surely the good feeling of success would be worth it.

Please join me in helping to make a difference, because from little acorns big oak trees grow.

If you wish to donate on line, please check the website "givey.com/head-shave appeal", or put in an envelope marked "Head-shave Appeal" and post through my letterbox at 9 Station Road, Ramsey, PE26 1JA (opposite the Junior School).

For more information on FKND, please contact Rachel Harris (Chairperson) on rachh123@hotmail.co.uk.



A CONTINUED SUCCESS

Heritage Sunday brings tourism and trade to Ramsey

Hundreds of residents and tourists turned out for the free heritage day on April 2nd, which included the Old Nene Gold Club for the first time.

Alongside special events held at the Old Nene and Rural Museum. The Gatehouse, the Lady Chapel, the Mortuary Chapels and Thomas a Becket Church opened their doors to the public and volunteers were there to share the history of each site.

Many sites reported successes, with Chairman of the Friends of Ramsey Mortuary Chapel Jane Yardley stating that the Mortuary Chapels had their busiest ever day with over 350 visitors, while National Trust volunteer David Cozens, was so busy at the Lady Chapel that he didn't get a chance to stop for lunch.

The church's ever popular tours of the bell tower were a favourite attraction on the day and some new church guides, written by Jonathan E Latter, enabled visitors to enjoy the points of interest in the beautiful church.

The Old Nene Golf and Country Club put on a family fun day for the first time and welcomed many families who enjoyed face painting, bouncy castles, medieval re-enactors and

archers. The BBQ was really popular especially as it was served on the terrace in the sunshine. Amy Brown, of the Old Nene, said that she was glad that so many people had the chance to see the new clubhouse and lodges and hopes that she'll see many back to sample the restaurant and bar soon.

The Rural Museum hosted a Food and Craft Fair and the courtyard was buzzing with stall holders and visitors all day. Terry Heslin, Chair, even had two enquiries about weddings at the Rural Museum. Across the field the 1940s Camp showed the award winning Great Fen film about the recent excavation of the Spitfire and served tea in the NAAFI.

Ann Cuthbert, Ramsey's Promotions Officer, commented that she was thrilled with the turnout, adding "the vintage bus always looks in the right place when it stops at the Camp and it was full on every trip. Next heritage day we'll be looking to hire a larger vintage bus so that everyone will get a chance for that free ride to the sites. If you missed out on this heritage day then put a date in your diary for September 10th when we'll be doing it all again!"

Information, visit www.discoverramsey.co.uk



Popular Help Centre to close following review

Responding to changes in customer demand, Huntingdonshire District Council is to close its service centre in Ramsey Library following a review of services.

According to a statement released via the council press office; "Over recent years, residents and customers have changed how they prefer to access the services provided by Huntingdonshire District Council. Therefore in a bid to become more customer-focussed, the Council has undertaken a review of the services it currently provides through the Customer Service Centres in Ramsey, Yaxley and St Neots."

The review showed that the number of customer visits to these three offices is very low and declining as the shift to online grows, and more and more residents and customers want the convenience of accessing services at a time that suits them. In response to these changes in expectation and customer behaviour, the Council has decided to close these already under-used centres in Ramsey, Yaxley and St Neots."

The statement continues to reassure customers that they will be fully supported through the transition, and commits the council to helping customers who currently use these facilities find a suitable alternative way for them to continue to receive the services they need.

Many will be able to access services through

the Council's website or by phoning our Customer Contact Centre, both of which regularly receive excellent feedback from customers. For more vulnerable customers who cannot access services by these means, the Council will continue to provide home visit support.

The Customer Contact Centre at Pathfinder House, Huntingdon is set to become a fully integrated, multi-agency hub offering face-to-face services, with Citizens Advice already operating from there and the Department for Work and Pensions expected to join them later in 2017.

John Taylor, Head of Customer Services, said: "The decision to close the centres was not reached easily, but as customers and residents change the way they prefer to access our services, and being mindful of the need to always make the best use of the Council's resources while still providing excellent service, we recognised the need to make this change. We have thought hard about how we can support residents through this change and will work closely with local Ward Members in this process."

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1940's Ramsey Weekend

Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th August 2017

Celebrating our 15th 1940s weekend on Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th August 2017. Join us at our unique site as we turn back time. An original search light battery unit, The Camp is situated on the outskirts of the town of Ramsey. The Camp, a ten acre site, will hold everything 40s. Immerse yourself with all the sights, sounds and tastes of the era. Living History displays are situated amongst the original wooden buildings with vintage military, civilian and commercial vehicles exhibited all around. Re-enactors mingle with visitors and add to the atmosphere. This year we are once again very fortunate to have the original Jones' van from the Dads Army BBC Television series at the Camp for the whole weekend. A lovely addition which fits in so well with the wartime setting. We have a unique Air Raid scenario in our own air raid shelter. Get ready to run when the siren goes!

The Drill Hall will be one of the areas used for entertainment. Woody's War Department is in charge of music here. A fashion show depicting clothes and trends of the 1940s will take place over the weekend along with vintage hair dressing both organised by the ladies from Hairaid. Ria Chambers from Family at War will be giving demonstrations of war time cooking, rations permitting. There will be numerous musical performances both days to suit everyone. On Saturday we have the G.B. Home Guard Band and the East of England Pipe Band will join us on Sunday to add to the vast variety of music on offer. We are pleased to have an organ and organist this year playing favourites of the wartime years.

Visit the row of shops selling clothes, bric a brac, and fruit and veg. Try your luck in the vintage Penny Arcade before heading to the canteen (NAAFI) for spam sandwiches, bread pudding and anything else not on ration. The 1940s garden behind the canteen is central to the Home Front displays complete with small farmyard animals including pigs, goats and chickens.

In the adjacent 20 acre grass field we will again have the Big Top Circus tent. All musical entertainment will be compared here by DJ Major Swing aka Tim Handley. Musical interludes will take place here too between dance demonstrations and exhibitions given by the Cambs Beds and Lindy Experience. This year our entertainment team consists of Adam Hoffman, Ian "Rosie" Rose, Paul Casper (aka George Formby) and the Polkadot Dolls. Children are catered for too by Captain Silly Billy who will make sure that there will be lots of fun and laughter when he is performing. An arena will be situated in the events field where displays will take place throughout the weekend. A cavalcade of

vintage vehicles will parade around the ring allowing visitors a closer glimpse of these wonderful machines. Ramsey Dog Club will be joining us again with their amazing dog agility displays. Other events for the arena are in the pipeline but have yet to be finalised.

Each day starting between 2.00 pm and 2.30 pm there will be a battle re-enactment from the various living history groups at the rear of the event field complete with authentic firepower and visual effects. We are also expecting to have visits both days from The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. A spitfire is due to fly over on Saturday and on Sunday we are due a Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster. All BMMF flying is subject to weather and engineering conditions. We are also pleased to announce that this year for the first time we will have a flyover by the Nene Valley Gliding Club.

Take time and meander between the trade stands and stalls selling their wares including vintage clothing, military and home front memorabilia and collectors' items. You will also find the catering and licensed bar facilities here along with displays of post 1940s classic vehicles.

A vintage omnibus from Dews Coaches will shuttle people free of charge to and from the Ramsey town to the event site over the weekend.

Not to be missed

Saturday Evening Big Band Dance in the Big Top

For our popular Big Band Dance this year we have again the Memphis Belle Orchestra. Tickets are £15.00 each in advance (over 12s only). Whilst period dress is encouraged to add to the atmosphere it is not essential. It is a great evening with all dance styles catered for, or just come to listen to the music. Ticket numbers are limited so please buy early to avoid disappointment. On sale either directly from the website or locally in Ramsey from Schools Out, Great Whyte, Ramsey (until mid July only) by kind permission of Jenny Stratton.

Sunday 20th August 2017

On Sunday morning at 11.00 am we host a Drum Head Service which takes place on the parade ground (weather permitting) commemorating and remembering all those who fought and died in world conflicts. We look forward to you joining us in August.

Ramsey 1940s The Camp, Wood Lane, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE26 2XB
Website www.ramsey1940s.co.uk -
Email: ramsey1940s@gmail.com



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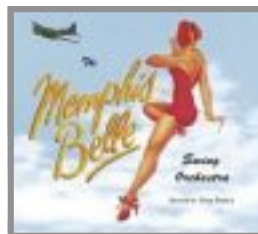
SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE IN THE BIG TOP

Saturday 19th August 2017

Dancing to the sound of the

Memphis Belle Orchestra and DJ Major Swing

Tickets £15.00 (over 12s only) - 7.30 pm to late



A great evening with all dance styles catered for including Ballroom, Lindyhop, Swing, Jive as well as the social and community dances of the period. Whilst period dress is encouraged to add to the atmosphere it is not essential.

Ticket numbers are limited so please buy early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets on sale by either downloading a booking form directly from the website www.ramsey1940s.co.uk

or purchased locally in person before mid July from Schools Out, Great Whyte, Ramsey by kind permission of Jenny Stratton.

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DISCOVER RAMSEY

Do you remember the old cinema? Well, the Promoting Ramsey Project certainly does - read more about plans to bring back The Grand here...

Ramsey Arts Festival is bringing back the cinema to the Great Whyte on Saturday June 3rd - for one day only. Working with the library, there'll be crafts and refreshments at 1-30pm before a children's film at 2-30pm (The Emperor's New Groove). There'll be a film for grown ups at 7-30pm (Hunt for the Wilderpeople). And it's all going to be on the site of where it all happened before - the library on the Great Whyte.

It's 82 years since the Grand, originally built and run by Murkett brothers, opened. It wasn't Ramsey's first cinema but it was the one that people round here remember best. After some bomb damage in the war it was given it's familiar façade and operated as a cinema, bingo hall, disco, concert hall and even a specialist naturist venue where the customers could strip off to enjoy a film! This story put Ramsey on the map back in 2004 when it hit the national press. By then the cinema had been reduced to a 400 seater with space downstairs for bingo, discos and bands. Peter Haddon's family had owned the

By Ann Cuthbert, Ramsey's Promotions Officer

cinema since 1958 and, after complaints about noise from new houses built nearby, decided to sell the site for redevelopment. The Grand closed in June 2005.

Please send me your memories of the Grand. Maybe you remember the Fizz or Licks discos or the queues for films in its hey day? There will be an exhibition in the library around the beginning of June to celebrate memories at the Grand! Call or contact me by email - details below.

Ann Cuthbert, Promotions Officer, Promoting Ramsey
ann.cuthbert@camsacre.org.uk - 07762 710257



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Tu	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.00 - 11.00		AquaFit 11.05 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 4.00	Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00	Public Swim 6.00 - 7.00	Lane Swim 7.00 - 8.00	Private Use 8.00 - 9.00
We	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.00 - 10.00	Aquanatal 10.05 - 10.55	Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	AquaFit 12.05 - 12.55	Private Use 1.00 - 3.30	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Floata Fun 6.00 - 7.00	Lane Swim 7.00 - 9.00	
Th	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.00 - 10.30	Adult Lessons 10.30 - 11.30	Private Use 11.30 - 12.30	Adult Lanes 12.30 - 1.30	Private Use 1.30 - 4.00	Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00	Public Swim + 1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30	Lane Swim 7.30 - 9.00	
Fr	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.30 - 11.00		Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Adult Lanes 12.00 - 1.00	Private Use 1.00 - 3.00	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Public Swim + 1 Lane 6.00 - 7.30	Lane Swim 7.30 - 8.30	
Sa	Early Birds 7.30 - 8.30	Junior Lessons 8.30 - 11.30			Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50	Floata Fun 1.00 - 3.00		Party Hire 3.00 - 3.50	Swimming pool closes at 3.50pm	
Su	Lane Swim 8.00 - 9.00	Family Fun 9.00 - 11.00		Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Party Hire 12.00 - 12.50	Floata Fun 1.00 - 2.30		Public Swim + 1 Lane 2.30 - 4.00	Swimming pool closes at 4.00pm	

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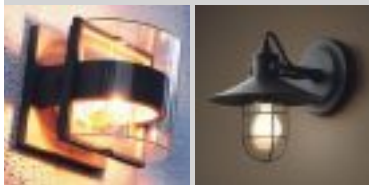
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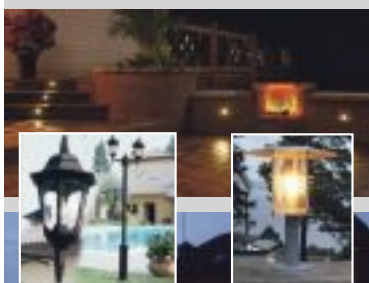
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POOL PROGRAMME

29TH MAY TO 4TH JUNE

Mo	Centre Closed - (Only open for Junior Swimming Lessons 3.30 - 6.00)								
Tu	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Private Use 9.30 - 11.00	Aquafit 11.05 - 11.55	Lane Swim 12.00 - 1.00	Floata Fun 1.15 - 3.15	Junior Lessons 4.00 - 6.00	Public Swim 6.00 - 7.00	Lane Swim 7.00 - 8.00	Private Use 8.00 - 9.00
We	Early Birds 6.30 - 8.30	Baby & Toddler Lessons 9.00 - 10.00	Aquanatal 10.05 - 10.55	Parents & Under 5's 11.00 - 11.55	Aquafit 12.05 - 12.55	Floata Fun 1.15 - 3.15	Junior Lessons 3.30 - 6.00	Floata Fun 6.00 - 7.00	Lane Swim 7.00 - 9.00
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RAMSEY MILLION

Developments continue, quite literally, in the case of the Skate Park this month, as The Ramsey Million Partnership looks out for the future of this much-requested facility

We know that this skate park project must seem a long time coming. We will continue to update you as and when we have new information. Thank you for bearing with us. Please rest assured that we, the Ramsey Million Partnership continue to progress all of the projects that you...the community, told us were priorities for you. We are all local residents and despite the time some of the projects are taking to bring to fruition we remain committed to delivering the outcomes in our community plan.

To obtain a copy of the Community Plan 2016-19 please visit our website, details below.

Want to be involved in Ramsey Million Big Local?

If you live, work or volunteer in Ramsey Parish you can apply to be a partnership member, be on a smaller more focussed project group, offer to be an advisor or help out at events. As a resident in a Big Local area you also become a member of the Big Local Family of 150 areas throughout the country, opening up a wide variety of opportunities.

For more details visit:

www.ramseymillion.org or
www.localtrust.org.uk

Facebook: [Ramsey Million](https://www.facebook.com/RamseyMillion)

Twitter: [RamseyMillionBL](https://twitter.com/RamseyMillionBL)

Contact: 01487 814897 or

07955 817137

Email: ramseymillion@gmail.com

A Skate Park for Ramsey...or should we say Multi-Wheeled Sports Facility?

As you will know from previous features in the Ramsey and Warboys Reporter, the Ramsey Million Partnership has been working tirelessly to secure the site for the much awaited Ramsey skate park, although seriously we should call it a multi-wheeled sports facility as many of the users will be on scooters or bikes as they were when we hired in the mobile skate ramps back in 2013/14. We were told by you then and again in 2015 when we re-evaluated our consultation data that a sports facility of this type was something numerous households wanted to see.



As you will know from previous features in the Ramsey and Warboys Reporter, the Ramsey Million Partnership has been working tirelessly to secure the site for the

Finding a site for this type of facility has taken time, much longer than any of us anticipated but we were determined and that determination paid off. We eventually secured a location down off St Marys Road as part of the Seagate Homes housing development.

Next hurdle... Planning permission!

Planning was needed not only for the skate park but for the housing development as

a whole. The developer had applied for planning permission for two separate sites, one off Great Whyte (the old Cades Yard) and the other off St Marys Road (opposite Tesco). They needed to gain permission for both to make the Ramsey sites economically viable. Therefore we waited patiently, assisting where we could but ultimately waiting until all relevant planning consultations were completed.



much awaited Ramsey skate park, although seriously we should call it a multi-wheeled sports facility as many of the users will be on scooters or bikes as they were when

we hired in the mobile skate ramps back in 2013/14. We were told by you then and again in 2015 when we re-evaluated our consultation data that a sports facility of this type was something numerous households wanted to see.



Bury Village Hall celebrates 20 years

The Bury Resident's Charity held a re-dedication ceremony and a number of events throughout the day on Saturday 22nd April to mark twenty years of Bury Village Hall. Our thanks to Shaun Foster-Henson for providing these fantastic images.

ONE – Music was provided from 10am by the Bury and Ramsey Concert band, who offered a large repertoire of varying styles

TWO – District Council Chairman Cllr Peter Bucknell was on hand to cut the ribbon, mimicking the actions taken on opening and during the 10th anniversary.

THREE – Magic Mania kept the kids happy, while table tennis, martial arts and carpet bowls entertained the adults

FOUR – One of the most popular activities was the face painting, with children offered a range of old favourites and more modern variants, such as this clever Iron Man design.



Doggy Daycare receives high praise from dog owners



Divine Canine in Ramsey has been running a unique day care centre exclusively for dogs since August last year, and in that time owner Anna Burgess has been very pleasantly surprised by the positive response she gets from dog owners who regularly use their services.

Anna explains, "Divine Canine Doggy Daycare is a short-term boarding service for dogs. Usually, dogs will stay for a full day or half a day, being dropped off in the morning and collected in the evening, although care of just a few hours at a time may also be available."

"Divine Canine differs from kennels and boarding facilities in that the focus of the centre is on play, activity, exercise, and keeping the dogs entertained, rather than simply providing accommodation.", Anna added.

How it works

You are invited to take your dog to Divine Canine before booking them in, so that your dog can meet Anna, see the environment and be assessed for suitability. You will also need to provide evidence of your dog's vaccinations and health record.

Once you, your dog and Anna are happy to go ahead, your dog will be enrolled within Divine Canine, and you can arrange your future bookings when it suits you.

You can book your dog in advance, or set up a regular schedule for care during your working day, it may also be possible to phone and take

your dog in on short notice, if there is an available space.

Facebook Comments

Anna received so many positive comments on Divine Canine's Facebook page; we could only print just a few:

Would highly recommend. A really lovely alternative to kennels or home sitting, essentially a doggy playgroup without being overcrowded. My two had their first day Wednesday and they had an amazing time, clear from all of the photos and videos but also from their very total lack of anxiety when I picked them up. For two dogs with bad separation anxiety at times it was wonderful to see, and they fell asleep the minute they got in the car! Anna is lovely and clearly cares a great deal about the dogs, watching them carefully while allowing them to have a fantastic time. Don't hesitate in using Divine Canine. J.T.

Such a wonderful place for dogs to get together & have fun, it's like playgroup for dogs! Don't hesitate in sending your dog here for a day or half a day, they'll be so well cared for & have a great time! We are lucky to have such a place in Ramsey. N.L.

Teddy came for a stay and play session today and loved it! Can now hardly keep his eyes open. He settled in after a few minutes and was soon running about the place with the others. Can't wait till next time. Thanks Anna! Xx. D.W.

My dog loves it here, she gets to play with other dogs all day long and I get to go out and not worry about her being bored or lonely at home alone. Highly recommended. C.T.

For further details contact Anna on 01487 711854/07725 985369 or email her at Divinecanine89@gmail.com You can also visit www.divinecanine-petservices.co.uk

DIVINE CANINE - DOGGY DAYCARE A 5 Star Daycare centre for your dog

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- Stay & Play sessions for older dogs (6 months plus)
Saturdays 11.10am – 12.10pm
£5 per session – Tea, Coffee and Biscuits provided
- Stay & Play sessions also available during the week
Call for further details
- Training sessions – Contact us for further details



Divine Canine
St Mary's Garage, St Mary's Road
Ramsey PE26 2SL
(Behind the car wash – opposite Tesco)
Tel: 01487 711 854

www.divinecanine-petservices.co.uk

SPRING INTO SUMMER AT HOLWOOD NURSERY



Holwood Nursery is a family owned retail plant nursery. Most of the plants on sale have been grown on site. If not grown on site, then, the plants have been grown by other specialist nursery growers within the Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire area. Our prices are very competitive and we put a lot of time into the care of our plants. We offer our customers help and advice if they require it, and a local delivery service for any large or bulky purchases.

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BUSINESS



Employment Status

We frequently get clients who say they only want to hire someone on a casual basis, or they have someone who they want to hire but who wants to be self-employed. But is employment status something employers or workers can decide or agree on?

The simple answer is no. Employees can't sign away their rights, so even in circumstances where both parties agree that self-employment or casual status would suit them, if the reality is that the relationship is really one of employment, then that's what it is, and no consultancy agreement or casual worker contract will change that.

So if you can't decide, who does? Well it really depends on the context. Employment status will usually come up or be challenged in two circumstances. Firstly where there is a tax issue or investigation, by HMRC. HMRC will look at the overall picture with regards to an individual (or series of individuals) and decide whether tax and National Insurance should have been paid in respect of those workers. Tax benefits is often the reason an individual will want to stay self-employed, so HMRC investigations into employment status might come from looking into the individual's tax affairs, or alternatively if they conduct any kind of audit or investigation into the business's affairs.

Secondly, employment status could be decided by an employment tribunal in the event of the individual claiming employment rights. Even if there is an agreement that the individual was self-employed, if a tribunal finds that the relationship is one of employment, they should have therefore benefited from all the relevant employment rights and will consider the claim accordingly. HMRC and tribunals will both look at the overall picture, and will use several different factors as guidance and although a decision made by one is not binding on the other, it is unlikely they would disagree.

So bearing in mind the decision is not made by you or your worker, what are the implications of mutually agreeing to conduct the relationship as self-employment where in fact HMRC or a tribunal would disagree? Well, when things are going well and amicable, and where both parties agree, the

risks would seem minimal, however in fact the consequences can be significant.

Amicable relationships can disintegrate fast, and you are in a very vulnerable position if a person you've engaged as being self-employed should have been employed and is unhappy with you. If the relationship has ended, you may find them claiming unfair dismissal (assuming you haven't used a fair employment dismissal procedure), or alternatively you may find them claiming back pay for a lot of accrued holiday or claiming pension rights or similar.

Even where it is amicable, individual circumstances change, and if the worker for example chooses to start a family, they may decide they would like to exercise rights to maternity, paternity or adoption pay and other family related rights.

You are obliged to give people employed in your business certain rights whether they want them or not, and would be held liable if these rights were withheld.

The safest way to protect your business and comply with your obligations and duty of care, is to ensure that the relationships you have with workers engaged in your business is accurately reflected in the contracts you have with them.

If you need HR advice in your business, do get in touch. **Dawn Cross**
Face2faceHR - 01487 711959
dawn.cross@face2facehr.com



Give Your Business DIRECTION

Strategic planning is important for your business because it provides a sense of direction and outlines measurable goals to keep you and your business on track. In order to make the most of strategic planning, your business should give careful thought to the goals it outlines and then back up these goals with realistic measures for evaluating results.

Here are three tips on how to create business goals and things to consider:

Plan Strategically: The goals you set for your small business will be unique to your particular operation. Goals can include income or customer growth, market expansion, implementation of a new promotional strategy or development of a new product or service. All goals should be reasonable, achievable and measurable, as well as relevant to your business. Once you have goals established, assign them to an owner and prioritize them. The assigned priority could be driven by budget or business-building need.

Stick to Deadlines: Establish reasonable deadlines, and resist the urge to change them unless extreme circumstances warrant. Missing deadlines can result in additional project costs and slowed productivity. Encourage your team to meet their deadlines.

When to Deviate: Changes in your team, in your budget or in economic or market conditions may change the validity

of your goals. While having specific goals and deadlines in place is representative of smart business operations don't be so rigid in your planning that you lose the ability to be flexible when necessary. Periodically re-evaluate your operating strategy and goals to ensure they are still appropriate to your long-term business plans.

As a small business owner you can gain an advantage over your competitors by developing business goals. Developing a plan helps you assess your market, plan your course of action and devise specific ways to help you achieve desired outcomes. This approach can also keep your team members focused and on track, which can give you the added advantage of increased productivity. As you would expect, several of our clients have been through the process of putting in place a strategic plan or need our help to organize their business. If this is something you feel you should be considering, feel free to get in touch

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When attempting to reduce the cost of running your business there are a host of things to look at. Sourcing better deals on consumables, be it a ream of paper or an insurance policy, will always feature prominently in the minds of business owners.

Let's face it, if we have to wade through 10 hours of internet searching to get an extra penny off our electricity unit rate then we probably will. If successful, we will feel we have really achieved something. Nobody wants to pay any more than they absolutely have to, do they?.....so on we search.

But, oh how little we think about our behaviour when using some of our services. Lighting is a great example where nothing beats the cost efficiency of turning the blessed things off.

It's fair enough to say that this strategy is not always possible. We have to see what we are doing and sometimes we need a certain level and type of light to do what it is that we do. Other times it's nice to show our products in the best possible light. Then there are security lighting and emergency lights, and the list just goes on. The problem

CUTTING YOUR COSTS

LED LIGHTING - A QUICK PROFIT BOOSTER IF SWITCHING OFF IS NOT AN OPTION - OR JUST NOT DONE

is once it's turned on it tends to stay on. If you are not using LED lighting then you are paying significantly more money than you otherwise could be.

The light-emitting diode (LED) is one of today's most energy-efficient lighting technologies. Bulbs last longer (3-25 times) are more durable, offer excellent light quality and from a cost point of view are 25-80% more energy efficient.* Don't start me on the environmental benefits or the next thing you will be reading is the back page. Long gone are the days when it took half an hour for the bulb to warm up, stuck 2 inches out from the lamp shade and gave a sickly yellow glow. Modern LED's are instant, bright, adjustable and come in every sort of lighting fixture and bulb type.

What you can do about it

1. Next time you're in your place of work take a look at one of your 'normal' light bulbs (this works at home too!).

2. Now bear in mind that each standard 60 Watt bulb will cost you about £14.34 per year compared to around £2.39 for an equivalent LED. That's a saving of around £11.95 per year just on that one bulb (this illustration is based on 6 hours use per day, 5 days a week less bank holidays at an electricity rate of 12 pence per kWh).

3. Now look around and take an educated guess as to how many bulbs there are (including fluorescent tubes and any other strange or weird ones).

4. Do the maths. Number of light bulbs x £11.95 = £X. It's a good rough guide to how

much extra it is costing you.

If it is just regular light bulbs that need replacing then quality bulbs can be sourced from most good hardware stores. If the light is contained within a unit such as a ceiling panel then the unit needs replacing.

The average cost to retro fit a home is £300-£500. Many businesses will be less but some may be much, much more. No matter how much the upfront cost is pay it if at all possible. The savings are relative, payback is fast and then it is pure profit for you forever after that.

If you cannot afford the upfront cost of LED lighting then a staged retro fit or a finance arrangement should be implemented. Finance for LED's are easily secured due

to the benefits they give. The overall cost of the finance should always be cheaper than the cost of the electricity consumed prior to having them fitted. Whichever way you approach the switch over you will save money.

In the home it may be possible to get your LED lights for free. Ask your domestic energy supplier. If they can't do it ask me.

In the workplace you will need a survey of your lighting system to determine the LED requirements. There is no need to pay for a survey, this should always be free.

Insist on bulbs and fixtures with a lengthy guarantee or you may find yourself with something cheap from China that needs replacing before long



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If you are unsure what LED lights you have then email me a picture of them.

Source <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/>

how-energy-efficient-light-bulbs-compare-traditional-incandescents

Any questions or queries? Do not hesitate to contact me on 07929 205661 for free advice.

NEWS FROM YOUR LOCAL OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Parking reforms move one step closer to helping under pressure local high streets

The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) is awaiting Royal Assent for the Parking Places (Variation of Charges) Bill 2016-17 which gives Government the power to force Huntingdonshire District Council to consult before hiking parking charges. It will also make it easier for councils to drop charges for special events like Small Business Saturday.

The Bill comes at a time when many small businesses, including independent town centre shops in Huntingdon are under threat from economic uncertainty and rising costs. FSB research has shown seven in ten small firms think parking is a priority for the future of independent shops. High parking charges, over-aggressive enforcement and a lack of available spaces in many areas have discouraged shoppers from visiting traditional city centres and high streets.

The Bill will give Ministers powers to make councils consult before raising parking costs. At the same time, it will remove the automatic need for 21 days advance notice when councils reduce or suspend parking charges. The Private Member's Bill has secured cross-party support, and so passed all its stages in both the House of Commons and House of Lords

FSB branch chairman for Huntingdonshire, Malcolm Lyons said: "We are delighted that this bill will become an act of Parliament. Parking remains a huge issue for local businesses in Huntingdon most of whom rely on the car for customers, staff and supplies to reach them. The high level of parking charges and fines raise billions for local councils, but put FSB members and independent retailers in town centres at a disadvantage. Customers who would otherwise choose to use independent shops are more likely to take their business elsewhere.

"This Bill will help allow independent small businesses to thrive. It makes it easier to lower or suspend charges for moments such as Small Business Saturday, while giving businesses a greater opportunity to have their say if hikes are proposed.

FSB asks for a mayor for small businesses

Following the announcement by the Department for Communities and Local Government that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are set for a new mayor, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

looks forward to working with the mayoral candidates to boost the activity of smaller businesses in Cambridge.

The region is set to have a great say over how their area is run, as a result of the devolution deal announced by Communities Secretary of State, Sajid Javid. This includes more powers and funding for economic growth. Job creation, skills, housing and transport are all key areas for the region's economic prosperity.

FSB have worked hard to ensure that making Cambridgeshire and Peterborough a driver of growth in the East and the UK is a priority for the region and they have produced a manifesto which outlines the issues for small businesses in the region to help make this happen.

Alan Todd, chairman of the Greater Cambridge branch of FSB said: "This deal presents huge opportunities and FSB looks forward to working with the mayor to make progress on lowering the costs of doing business in the whole region".

About the FSB

As experts in business, FSB offers members a wide range of vital business services,



including advice, financial expertise, support and a powerful voice in Government. Its aim is to help smaller businesses achieve their ambitions. More information is available at www.fsb.org.uk/bedscambsherts and follow on twitter @fsbedcambhert

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONE TO READ CARAVAL by Stephanie Garber

Caraval is the story of Scarlett as she dreams of a better life, away from her abusive father. A life where she is married to a kind man that takes her and her sister out from under their father's tight grip and into a world where they can be free. However, a week before her wedding Scarlett receives the letter she has been waiting years for, an invitation to the mysterious Caraval. Caraval has its own set of rules and when Scarlett and her sister Tella arrive on the island the games begin. Tella is kidnapped and every player in this year's Caraval has only five nights to find her. The person to find Tella first will receive one wish but for Scarlett it is more than a game, it is her sister and she will do anything she has to get her back. Scarlett was told twice that this was a game and not to believe anything she may believe to be real but when her heart is at risk the line between what is real and what is not begins to blur.



"She imagined loving him would feel like falling in love with darkness, frightening and consuming yet utterly beautiful when the stars came out."

Caraval is full of unpredictability and I found myself getting turned around just as often as Scarlett. I felt like I was there with her, my jaw hitting the floor more times than I could count and my heart breaking right along side hers. The characters are well thought through, flawed and captivating. They make this story, as you come to care about what happens to them as the nights of Caraval play out. It had moments that made me laugh, moments that made me smile and moments that had me hoping I had read it wrong.

Overall Caraval had everything you could possibly want from a YA book! It was magical, enchanting, heart-breaking, entertaining and most of all beautifully written. I have no idea what is in store for us in book two but I eagerly await to re-enter this world once more. For a debut novel I am stunned and if this is just the start of what Garber has to offer I can't wait to read more!

FRAUD WATCH! It's a Scam!

Most of the information fraudsters need to steal your identity can be found on Facebook

Fraudsters need just three pieces of personal information to steal your identity, most of which can be found on your Facebook profile.

All it takes is your name, date of birth and address for fraudsters to steal your identity and access your bank accounts, take out loans or take out mobile phones in your name.

Recent YouGov research from Equifax has revealed that a high proportion of social media users risk identity theft by giving fraudsters easy access to this type of personal information.

The survey found that almost 30% of adults with a social media account include their full name and date of birth on their profile pages.

Even if you don't publically show your age on your Facebook profile, fraudsters can still work out your age from people wishing you well on your timeline. Once they have your date of birth, they can find out where you live too.

You should review your privacy settings and ensure you are not revealing too much. If you need some guidance, this complete guide will help you keep control of your Facebook account.

John Marsden, head of ID and fraud at Equifax, said: "People must act now to protect their finances for the long term. More adults in the UK are engaging with social media than ever before, especially on their smartphones, and a high number are readily sharing their personal information on these platforms."

"Fraudsters get hold of this type of information so they can impersonate an individual, either by setting up accounts in their name or accessing existing accounts and stealing from them. The extent of damage can run to thousands of pounds worth of debt being racked up in your name. My advice to consumers is to be social savvy; avoid unnecessarily sharing personal details and risking your identity on platforms that can so easily be exploited. It's always nice to receive well wishes on your birthday – but is it worth the risk?"

If you have been a victim of identity theft, you should act quickly and not ignore the problem. For more information, sign up for free to Action Fraud Alert to receive direct, verified, accurate information about scams and fraud in your area by email, recorded voice and text message.



SERVES
4-6

RAMSEY WALLED GARDEN RECIPE OF THE MONTH



ASPARAGUS TART

British asparagus is at its best now. If you have enough it is best served simply. Just boiled or steamed and served with soft poached or boiled egg or hollandaise sauce. This tart however, makes a lovely meal. Serve with new potatoes and salad.

FOR THE PASTRY

(or use 250g ready-made shortcrust pastry)
120g cold butter, plus extra to grease
225g plain flour, plus extra to dust
1 medium egg yolk

FOR THE FILLING

300g asparagus, trimmed
300ml double cream
2 eggs, beaten
50g gruyère, or nutty cheddar, finely grated. Mild goats cheese is also good.

METHOD

1. To make the pastry, grate the butter into the flour and rub in roughly with your fingertips to coat (or use a food processor). Stir in the egg yolk and a pinch of salt and, if necessary, a drop of cold water to bring it together into a dough. Form into a thick disc, wrap and chill for 20 minutes.

2. Preheat the oven to 180C (350F/gas mark 4) and grease a 22cm round tart tin. Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface and use to line the tin, pressing it into the sides. Prick the base with a fork, line with foil or baking paper and baking beans or pulses/rice and bake for 15 minutes until lightly golden. Remove the beans and paper and put back into the oven for five minutes.

3. Meanwhile, steam the asparagus for about four minutes, until al dente. Chop into short lengths, and put about half of the stalks into a food processor (keep all the tops). Puree. Pour the double cream into a bowl and add the eggs. Beat together, then stir in the puree and the grated cheese. Season well.

4. Arrange the remaining asparagus pieces on the bottom of the tart, and then pour in the cream mixture. Bake for about 35-40 minutes until it wobbles but is set, and golden on top. Allow to cool slightly before serving.



UNIVERSITY OF THE 3RD AGE

A may be for Apple, but perhaps B is not what you think it is! Read on for news of quilting and our colonial cousins from the ever intrepid local U3A groups.

'Bee' is for Babies

By Enid Hubbard - Ramsey and District U3A

In April the two Ramsey and District U3A Patchwork and Quilting groups met together for an all-day quilting bee.

"And exactly what is a quilting bee?" the beginners asked while the advanced quilters smiled knowingly but weren't quite sure either.

Colonial cousins

Well, the term 'quilting bee' has reached almost legendary status among quilters. It served as a symbol for how our colonial cousins in America grouped together to make their quilts by hand. In the late 18th century women shared the work of quilt making out of necessity as well as pleasure. However quilting bees made up only a small portion of the time dedicated to quilting and many women hand quilted alone. In rural areas women continued to hold 'quiltings' throughout the 20th century and the myth of the quilting bee continued to grow.

The U3A quilting bee did not quite follow the traditional pattern, for a start we were going to quilt by machine. However we were quilting for a purpose, we were quilting small baby quilts for the neonatal unit at Hinchbrook Hospital. Parents of premature babies having to spend time in the unit can choose a quilt for their baby. This quilt goes home with baby as a keepsake which is why they are always in need of more quilts.

Neonatal

One in ten babies need neonatal care, as there were 700,000 births in 2015, the latest live birth figures available, that meant 70,000 babies needed some form of neonatal care. That's an awful lot of quilts!

On the day, nine quilters gathered with sewing machines, thread and determination. One member cut out fabric squares or strips to make the quilt tops and also cut backings to fit them while the others pieced the patches and sandwiched the quilts together. There was a break for lunch and then it was back to work. At the end of the day we were all tired but happy to take a few unfinished quilts home to be finished.

Forty tiny quilts were completed in bright and pastel colours for boys and girls, all of them were quilted with love, presented to the hospital after Easter.

Quilt guilds

If you are wondering what happened to quilting bees - well quilting bees served as the precedent for the formation of quilt guilds, the name also survives in small groups of quilters who meet on a regular basis and

some quilting shops use the term in their name. Our nearest fabric shop in Ellington is named 'Bee Crafty' just to illustrate the point. There are even virtual quilting bees available to build online communities of

quilters. As for our groups we enjoyed the day so much we are looking forward to the next one.

If you would like to learn how to patchwork quilt and are retired or semi-retired please

look at our website

www.ramseyu3a.org.uk

for details or our meetings.

Enid Hubbard - U3A Patchwork and Quilting



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Ramsey library



Surrounded by paper and pencils, crayons and paint, pictures and stencils, lettering and scripts, embellishments and scraps, books and examples, the participants in the Art Journal Workshop at Ramsey Library began a most enjoyable day. Led by mixed media artist, Marian Savill, we learnt how to free up the inner child to play, experiment and create art journals. We made our own little book from cardboard pieces and also used plain paper notebooks to decorate and embellish and record thoughts and ideas. We only scratched the surface of techniques and possibilities and the time flew by. My own pile of resources keeps growing, ideas whizz around my head and all I need now is time!

There will be something fishy at Ramsey Library on Saturday 20th May from 10.30am



until 12.30pm. The Friends of Ramsey Library are holding another children's craft event and this time the theme is, guess what, fish! There will be activities suitable for children aged 3+ and refreshments will be available. The money raised goes towards events at the library and additional items, such as the big book stand used when story telling.



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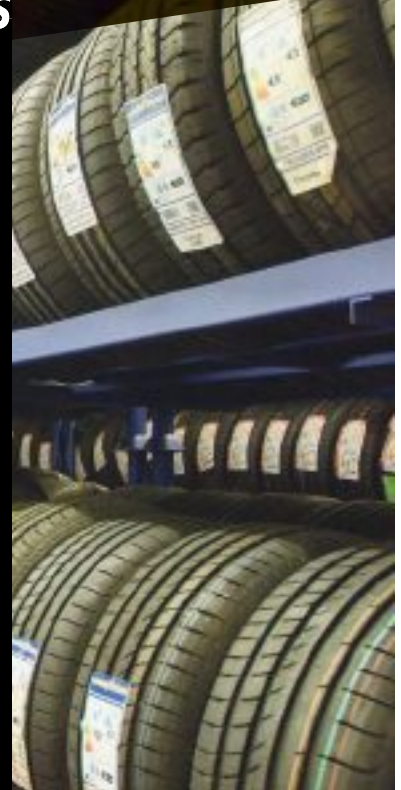
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Upwood Cricket Club Report - April 2017

By Neil Tuffin

Quiz Night

The Upwood CC annual family quiz night was held on Saturday 8th April at 5-30 at Bury Village Hall. The evening was very successful and was attended by 70 adults and children. Questions were written and delivered by legendary local quiz master Pat Tuffin and the scores kept by his wife Chris. The event raised £180 which was in part raised by the auction of a signed Peterborough United Football and game tickets kindly donated by Andy Morris. The main quiz was won by previous winners the Lawrence-Purllant family with the support of avid quiz fan Pete the Postman.

The club would like to thank all those who attended, especially those who donated raffle prizes and of course Mr and Mrs Tuffin. Although to be decided the money generated is hoped to be used to purchase a new bowling machine to help the juniors.

Junior Cricket

Now that the weather is warm enough and the evenings light enough we are training outside with the juniors. Sessions are always fun and we have a good number of coaches to children to ensure that each child can get some individual advice and guidance on how to improve their game. Currently, we have 4 qualified ECB coaches and 1 young

adult helper but are always looking for other helpers particularly parents.

We hope to have started on Monday April 24th providing the weather and ground conditions were suitable. Times are as follows:

Novices (including All Stars Squad) 5-30 PM to 6-15 PM

Development Squad (more experienced Under 10s) 5-30 PM to 6-30 PM

Senior Squad (School Year Group 6 to 10 Hard Ball) 6-30PM to 7-30PM

Junior membership is just £15 per child for the whole summer plus £2 a game. (There will also be an additional cost by the ECB for those wishing to join the All Stars Scheme but this is optional). Games are guaranteed for those aged 7 years old and upwards.

The All Stars is a new ECB initiative to encourage 5-8 years old to take up cricket and we are incorporated into our coaching this summer. Our lead "Activator" is Tom Milner from Oak Activities who is also our Head Coach.

If you want more info please visit www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars or contact Neil (details below).

Games will be coming thick and fast in May with most of the fixtures being played away this month.

Date	Day	Opposition	Venue	Age Group/Team	Start
3.05.17	Wed	Huntingdon	Away	U11	6pm
07.05.17	Sun	Warboys	Away	U9 Wagtails	10am
09.5.17	Tues	St Ives	Away	U11	6pm
11.05.17	Thurs	Newboro	Away	U13	6pm
14.05.17	Sunday	Sawtry	Home	U9 Wagtails	10am
17.05.17	Wed	Ramsey	Away	U13	6pm
21.05.17	Sun	Sawtry	Away	U9 Kites	10am
24.05.17	Wed	Orton Park	Away	U13	6pm

Adult Cricket

As mentioned in last month's edition we are running to adult teams this year. The first team compete in the Hunts League Division 3 on Saturdays and the seconds play in Hunts League Division 5 on Sundays. There are also a few friendly games including some evening games planned. Home games are played at the picturesque ground on

Huntingdon Road as you go through the village.

We are always looking for people to play, experienced or otherwise, and are very happy to accommodate those who can only play once in a while. Adult membership for the year is just £35.

Why not come and see us during the following fixtures held at Upwood:

ALL STARS cricket

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Date	Home Team	Away Team	Fixture Type	Division	Start
06/05/2017	Ramsey CC 3rd XI	1st XI	League	Division 3	13:00
13/05/2017	1st XI	Biggleswade CC - Sat 1st XI	League	Division 3	13:00
14/05/2017	2nd XI	Houghton and Wyton - Sunday XI	League	Division 5	13.00
27/05/2017	1st XI	Huntingdon & District CC - 2nd XI	League	Division 3	13:00
04/06/2017	2nd XI	Adidda	League	Division 3	13:00
10/06/2017	1st XI	Falcon XI CC - 1st XI	League	Division 3	13:00

New Facilities for 2017

We have been lucky enough to receive a donation from Mr and Mrs N Purllant who have recently moved out of Providence Place on the Huntingdon Road near the ground. This large sum of money has allowed us to replace the sightsscreen which after many years of service has finally succumbed to the weather. This hopefully will be in-situ by the beginning of May.

As well as this generous donation Parallel UK (based in Spalding) have again sponsored the club with some a substantial sum of money to purchase the latest covers which should ensure that more games are played. As well as replacing the old sightsscreen and the far end of the ground we have been lucky enough to be granted a £1210 grant from Sport England to buy a one for the pond/pavilion end.

The club will now have two substantial screens to allow the batsman to see the ball better thus improving the quality of the



game and boosting safety. We hope that these new items will encourage more young players to stay with and join Upwood. The club is very grateful for all these funds which will make a big difference on our Huntingdon Road ground.

Ramsey Phoenix Project Come and join us

Next venture for Ramsey Phoenix Project is a Mechanics course which will run on Friday's from 5th May, 10.30 till 1 at Ramsey Cricket Club. Please contact to register for this course



The Dog's Meet café is continuing to supply people with tea and coffees each Tuesday from 10 till 12 at Ramsey Cricket Club. There may even be a slice of cake to purchase, occasionally!

Lovely welcome and friendly

Refreshments, friendly atmosphere

Volunteers from the Phoenix Project making sure the coffee and tea is available

Dog's learning how to socialise

Made to feel welcome

Phoenix Project participants enjoying the opening of the Dog's Meet café

Come and meet other people, spend time in the company of dogs (even if you don't own one)

We would always welcome volunteers adding their name to the weekly rota!

A big thank you to Chris Day at 'Mugs and Bits' for his generous donation of mugs and the printing of our aprons and Ramsey Cricket Club for the continued support



FITNESS CHALLENGE

It's been a month of ups and downs for Adam this month, as he is plagued by shin splints and determined to continue. Some PB news always helps...

Aside from the ever-present urge to eat chocolate, the fact that cheese has re-entered my life in a big way due to the end of lent and the small heatwave that makes running in the day a somewhat sweatier affair, I've had worries about injury and consequences of time management to consider. But, here's to a (technical) 5K personal best, going to show that there is always a silver lining to focus on.

Run Up

In terms of the running, I'm still discovering new things on the road and new parts of myself. My favourite example this month was a massage to a friend, where I complained that I didn't have half an hour by saying "Well, if I can't do 5k, is there any point?", before reading this back and instantly complaining to him "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME!" He seemed happy about that, for some reason...

A more welcome surprise was the effect of pacing. Last month, I valiantly failed in my first attempt at an intervals session, a medium length run whereby you vary your pace in the aim to try to get a little better at controlling it. While I was very happy doing six minute kilometres, which previously would



A truly dreadful, horrible, sweaty picture. I am ringing the PB bell through, and the designers inform me that unless I was in the picture it wouldn't make sense...

have destroyed me, I couldn't quite keep to 5-minute pace, leaving me panting just less than a km from the finish. However, it did give me a goal, and slowly over the next couple of weeks I began to pay more attention to my Fitbit, which allows me to somewhat accurately track my pace during a run.

Every silver lining has a cloud

IT'S NOT BEEN THE EASIEST MONTH TO BE FIT

In the end, the idea was to put it into practice. Hopefully the ending picture will give you some idea of the kind of slog it was, although it did feel like this was the first time I knew what I was doing. Don't get me wrong, I still went off too fast at the start, and if you can find me any runner who says he doesn't I'm calling them a professional or a liar! But otherwise I was able to control the pace and come away with a 25:36 over five kilometres – my fastest yet! Thrilled, I rang the PB bell (a must) and set about getting my time – only for something to go terribly wrong and my time wasn't counted!

Little did I know this was simply the silver lining to the cloud that was coming...

Run Down

After this triumph, I have been desperately trying to avoid shin splints. For several days afterwards I could feel pain when walking, which I naturally assumed was muscle related, but heading out for a long run afterwards I found myself unable to continue after just fifteen minutes. Even walking was painful, and it probably took me longer to walk home than it had to run the entire parkrun. A couple of days and consultations later, and I was pretty sure splints had returned.

With this, there is nothing to do other than back off and take it easy – something I used to relish. Now, I am jumping up and down, ready for the off. Add to that a fear that if I drop anything all the progress I've made could be rolled back, and I was desperate for the off. While I've been able to use the exercise bike and jump in the pool, its surprising how little it feels like I am doing, although when compared to last year I am exponentially more active. Either way, the dual annoyances of being unable to exercise and wanting/ needing to have made this something of a dip in the journey.

Another issue is weight, which has fluctuated up and down this month. I'm 100% sure what I currently weigh, having not had chance to get to the gym scales in the last week, but I'm in and around the 90kg mark. Excitingly, this not only means I am officially out of the obese section of a BMI graph, but also affects my continued treatment for high blood pressure. That being said, Easter chocolate and the end of a cheese fast during lent has hit me hard (I'm literally eating cheese on toast while typing this). This is the first time I've really had to think about the diet, as my levels of exercise had improved so much that Gyming it

Through no fault of One Leisure, I found myself largely without a membership this month, forcing me to both confront the unreliable nature of my own timekeeping skills (how does one get April and July confused? I blame the running...) and the pay-as-you-go fees, which are necessary for anyone without a monthly membership. On the several occasions, I swam this month it was very reasonable indeed, and it is possible to purchase a one-off pass that will cover up to ten classes, if you are so inclined to spin or circuit but not to regularly use the gym.



I'm not sure if I was the one doing the overtaking in this photo or if I was being overtaken by yet another dog. Having run a few Parkruns now, I can safely say that if they ever let Spaniels or Labradors into the Olympics, humans are finished.

Again, this was somewhat affected by my tapering off towards the end of the week, but an unexpected side effect has been an increased level of effort in the pool itself. Front Crawl (freestyle to any swimming fans out there) has been a real block for me – I just can't reconquer the breathing and I still struggle for outright pace – but I've learned a few tricks from running to give me the edge. Best strategy so far seems to be to treat it like a hill sprint session, nice and quick front crawl on one length, and a slightly lazier breast-stroke on the way back. While this can be tough in the fast lane (there's no such thing as a lazy pace there) it seems to be working, and I can thoroughly recommend giving this a try if you are just dipping your toe back in the water.

Running away with it

Hopefully, all of the rest will pay off at the end of this month, when I take on my biggest challenge yet at the Birmingham 10k. Something of a training event for the Birmingham Half Marathon (which I shall not be attending due to sheer, blind panic whenever someone uses the word 'marathon' near me), this will be my first attempt at a large scale, highly organised runners event which attracts a myriad of club runners in a large city. While my first 10k will always hold a special place in my heart, this seems to be the closest I can get to the glamorous marathons we all enjoy on TV, and I'm thoroughly excited for the atmosphere at such an event. My legs may not carry me the whole way, and I have currently resigned myself to running at a slower pace than before, but I am very curious as to how the supporters, and indeed the constant blasting of music, will affect my race. Having chosen to run in the 90's music pen, I expect to have given up around kilometre four and started an impromptu dance routine to Steps 5,6,7,8... and may therefore be entirely unable to finish.

Other than resisting the temptation to boogie away, next month I'll be looking to secure that official PB time at Parkrun, take on a few more classes, and generally look for something a bit more unusual in the local area. The ever present spectre of the Great Eastern Run is beginning to loom in the distance! As ever, thanks for all the support, and I hope to be seeing you out and about, being active in the coming months.

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STEVE FINISHES FOURTH IN WORTHING



Steve Lovell receives his prize from Paul Preston of the executive committee. (Marion Homer)

Recent tour winner Steve Lovell of Ramsey finished in fourth place on the South Coast for the British Masters in Worthing. Going into the final round three off the lead, Steve just couldn't close the gap to eventual winner and now two time champion, Nuno Cunha of Portugal.

Reflecting on another satisfying competition, Steve said, "It's been a great weekend, played in near perfect conditions. The course in Worthing is probably the most challenging that we play but as it was my

former home town, I always felt I had a good chance." Steve produced an amazing spell in round three, bagging six holes in one in a row, which was enough to secure him the aces prize.

Steve dropped to number three in the rankings with the next event, the British Championships, taking place in Margate at the beginning of May.

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